

that at the 2025 regular Session of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that By-Law 11, as found on page 68 (86) of the By-Laws of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way:

Reference: Chapter VII, By-Law 11, on page VII-2 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws.

11. - After opening on Tuesday morning, ~~at eight (8:00) a.m.~~ by 9 a.m., the President shall call upon the Committee on Credentials to make a report upon the Credentials of additional Representatives, Scholars, Past Noble Grands and Past Grands, other than those covered by the report submitted on Monday.

The Section as changed will then read:

11. - After opening on Tuesday morning, by 9 a.m., the President shall call upon the Committee on Credentials to make a report upon the Credentials of additional Representatives, Scholars, Past Noble Grands and Past Grands, other than those covered by the report submitted on Monday.

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 8-2025 for the Rebekah Assembly Sessions

I, Sister Carson Shulist, of Faith Rebekah Lodge #84 of Welland, Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2025 regular Session of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that By-Law 12, as found on page 68 (86) of the By-Laws of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way:

Reference: Chapter VII, By-Law 12, on page VII-2 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws.

12. - (2024) The next order of business on the first (1st) morning session shall be the reading of the minutes of the last Annual and any special sessions, and reports of the various officers. The election of Assembly Officers, I.A.R.A. Representative and Alternate and Joint Planning Board Representative shall take place at ~~nine (9:00) a.m.~~ immediately after a quorum has been established by the Secretary, after which the President shall announce the Sessional Committees, then the Secretary shall submit all petitions, communications, and accounts to the Rebekah Assembly Session.

The Section as changed will then read:

12. - (2024) The next order of business on the first (1st) morning session shall be the reading of the minutes of the last Annual and any special sessions, and reports of the various officers. The election of Assembly Officers, I.A.R.A. Representative and Alternate and Joint Planning Board Representative shall take place immediately after a quorum has been established by the Secretary, after which the President shall announce the Sessional Committees, then the Secretary shall submit all petitions, communications, and accounts to the Rebekah Assembly Session.

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 9-2025 for the Rebekah Assembly Sessions

I, Sister Carson Shulist, of Faith Rebekah Lodge #84 of Welland, Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2025 regular Session of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that By-Law 21, as found on page 73 (93) of the By-Laws of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way:

Reference: Chapter VII, By-Law 21, on page VII-6 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws.

21. - (2024) The election for Assembly Officers, Representative to International Association of Rebekah Assemblies and Alternate, Representatives on the Joint Planning Board and selection of the nominees to the I.O.O.F. Seniors Homes Inc. shall take place on Tuesday morning of the Annual Sessions, ~~at nine (9:00) a.m.~~ immediately after quorum has been established by the Secretary. ~~and~~ Only the Elected, Past Elected Officers, Appointed Officers and Representatives shall be entitled to vote.

The Section as changed will then read:

21. – (2024) The election for Assembly Officers, Representative to International Association of Rebekah Assemblies and Alternate, Representatives on the Joint Planning Board and selection of the nominees to the I.O.O.F. Seniors Homes Inc. shall take place on Tuesday morning of the Annual Sessions immediately after quorum has been established by the Secretary. Only the Elected, Past Elected Officers, Appointed Officers and Representatives shall be entitled to vote.

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 10-2025 for the Rebekah Assembly Sessions

I, Sister Carson Shulist, of Faith Rebekah Lodge #84 of Welland, Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2025 regular Session of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that By-Law 22, as found on page 74 (94) of the By-Laws of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way:

Reference: Chapter VII, By-Law 22, on page VII-6 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws.

22. - The Committee on Election Returns shall meet immediately after quorum is established by the ~~Secretary at nine (9:00) a.m.~~ on Tuesday morning of the Assembly Sessions to count the ballots in the presence of the entire Assembly. (See By-law fifty (50) of the Rebekah Assembly)

The Section as changed will then read:

22. - The Committee on Election Returns shall meet immediately after quorum is established by the Secretary on Tuesday morning of the Assembly Sessions to count the ballots in the presence of the entire Assembly. (See By-law fifty (50) of the Rebekah Assembly)

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 11-2025 for the Rebekah Assembly Sessions

I, Sister Linda Shortt, PP of Kinoven Rebekah Lodge #353 of Brooklin, Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2025 regular Session of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that By-Law 42, as found on page 82 (105) of the By-Laws of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way:

Reference: Chapter VII, By-Law 42, on page VII-13 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws.

42. – (2022) The President may hold office in a Rebekah Lodge except that of Noble Grand. A District Deputy President shall have the right to hold any office in a Rebekah Lodge, except that of Noble Grand or Vice Grand.

The Section as changed will then read:

42. – (2022) The President may hold office in a Rebekah Lodge except that of Noble Grand. A District Deputy President shall have the right to hold any office in a Rebekah Lodge, except that of Noble Grand.

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Resolutions:

NONE.

Standing Resolutions:

NONE.

11

Section #8, Nominations for Offices and those Standing for Election.

Grand Master:

Brother Jason Walt, Madoc Lodge #179, Madoc, Ontario.

Deputy Grand Master:

Brother Mark Volkov, Valley City Lodge #117, Dundas, Ontario.

Grand Warden:

Brother Philip Benson, Belleville Lodge #81, Belleville, Ontario.

Grand Secretary:

Brother John R. Nichols, Avon Lodge #41, Stratford, Ontario.

Grand Representative 1 Year:

Brother Gene Dopp, Maple Leaf Lodge #57, Orangeville, Ontario.



**Yours in Friendship, Love, and Truth,
Brother John R. Nichols, Grand Secretary.**

Grand Treasurer's Report

To: The Grand Master, Officers, Sisters and Brothers of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Dear Sir, Brothers and Sisters;

I have had the pleasure of being your Grand Treasurer (known as Chief Financial Officer in other organizations) since May of 2002. This has been a great experience.

This is a report of the financial activity of The Grand Lodge of Ontario, I.O.O.F., general fund and other funds under control of the Grand Lodge, for the term ended August 31, 2024.

The attached statements of the General Fund and other Funds for the year ended August 31, 2024 and financial position of that date have been audited by the accounting firm of Allay LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants.

The auditors report indicates that the financial statements continue to present fairly the financial picture of the Grand Lodge of Ontario and that the statements continue to be presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

COMPARISON OF ACTUAL ACTIVITY WITH APPROVED BUDGET

The overall position of the Grand Lodge of Ontario for the year ended August 31, 2024 shows a net Profit of \$58,919. (Due mainly to funds received from the sale of Mayflower Lodge Hall after all expenses were paid.)

on the adjusted basis of operating activity on the basis budgets were established.

INCOME

Overall operating income was over budget by \$8,366., interest and investment income over budget by \$17,916 dues were under budget by \$11,093. and non-recurring items under budget by \$3,116. (Due to only cashing GIC's needed for cash the rest could continue to earn interest). Management fees over \$3,227.

EXPENSES

In total expenses were under budget by app. \$12,122. when you add back Mayflower income.

I have enjoyed trying to keep my eyes on expenses and income and do believe that the results are continuing to head in the right direction with the exception of **membership**. We are seeing an ever increasing number of confined and non-dues paying membership and our dues paying base is continuing to shrink as a result.

Following are the adjustments for non-cash and accrued to cash basis:

Net Income (loss) as per Audited Statements	\$(39,462.)	Non-
Recurring Income - Accruals	27,447.	
Interest HQEF	24,304.	
Misc, Accrual & timing differences	5,685.	
Mayflower #297 Sale of property	<u>40,945.</u>	
Surplus (loss) per Internal Financials	<u>\$ 58,719.</u>	

The Budget for the term 2025/2026 being presented at Sessions calls for a dues increase of \$2.00 per dues paying member. **There are three (3) motions being presented at Sessions dealing with rate changes to TRAVEL & PER DIEM AS WELL AS TO WHICH MEMBERS WOULD RECEIVE THESE BENEFITS. If all three (3) motions would pass, the dues increase could be as much as \$45.00 plus \$2.00 for a total of a dues increase of \$47.00 per dues paying members.**

Brothers and Sisters it costs as much or more to service a Lodge with 15 or less dues paying members as it does to service a lodge with 40 or more members. Some of the Representatives from the smaller Lodges get more back for travel and per diem than their Lodge pays in dues. **IS IT TIME TO HAVE LODGES PAY THE TRAVEL** etc. for their reps instead of increasing dues to cover this???????? Our cost for this item is around \$6,000.00 and could rise substantially if the motions mentioned above all come into effect.

Some members think that Grand Lodge has lots of funds when they look at our Balance Sheet and see lots of investments, however, these are investments held in trust for Lodges.

With continually changing economic times, I am constantly looking for ways that fall within our CODE to increase our financial resources. It is important that we live within our means. **Due to being able to purchase US \$ at less than the budget rate, we have accumulated US \$, however, we have had to pay \$1.41 this year and wiped this out, therefore I am proposing that we set the US exchange rate at \$1.45 for the coming year.**

**The Budget for the upcoming term Follows:
The Budget was approved by The Finance Committee and
the Executive Committee.**

Brother R.G. Schwalm, Grand Treasurer.

**2025-2026
GRAND LODGE OF ONTARIO, I.O.O.F.
September 1, Aug 31**

#1

14

INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Actual	Dec.31	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	
	23/24....	23/24....	24/25....	24/25....	- 2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	2025/26	
					BUDGET	motion	motion	motion	motion	
Per Capita Dues	56,730	51,818	50,375	22,184	48,300	1	2	3	4	
Increase in Dues	3,720	0	3,100	\$0.00	1,400	23,120	#####		\$\$\$\$\$	
Interest Gen. Fund	14,500	26,711	18,900	11,857	20,000		4.29	ADD	ADD	per member +\$2.00
Investment Fees	19,000	22,228	20,000	0	20,000		6,000			
Net Sale Supplies	800	-63	800	869	1,500	33	9			per member_\$2.00
S/G/L Dues	33,910	31,450	30,000	12,708	26,950					
Non-recurring items	88,490	85,374	92,385	4	94,950					
Interest from 816012-HQEF	18,600	24,303	19,000	12,246	22,000.00					
Capital Transfers			0	0	0					
Inventory Adj. on Supplies			0	0	0					
TOTAL INCOME	229,760	241,821	234,560	59,868	235,100					
EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET							
SALARIES										
Grand Secretary	67,240	67,240	69,260	23,975	68,920					
Contract Services	1,550	654	1,500	0	1,500					
Contract service Order Clerl	16,300	15,000	15,800	5,449	16,120					
Employee Benefits	8,100	8,323	8,100	4,789	8,800					
OFFICE EXPENSE										
Rent/heat&hydro	17,000	17,697	17,600	5,020	18,230					
General Office	8,500	11,588	8,500	1,212	9,000					
Postage/Courier	4,000	3,191	3,500	-60	4,000					
Telephone	4,100	2,960	4,100	537	3,800					
OFFICERS EXPENSE										
Grand Master	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000					
Deputy Grand Master	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000					
Grand Warden	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500					
Grand Treasurer	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500					
Brochures & Joint Prog	150	315	150	-259	300					
Insurance & Bonding	3,000	3,099	3,000	0	3,200	T 700	ADD	ADD	ADD	
Executive Meetings	700	902	700	59	900	PD 360	\$\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$\$\$	

2025/2026
 GRAND LODGE OF ONTARIO, I.O.O.F.
 September 1, August 31, :
 Dec.31

#2

15

EXPENSES	BUDGET 23/24....	ACTUAL 23/24....	BUDGET 24/25....	ACTUAL 24/25....	2025/26... BUDGET	25/26....	25/26....	25/26....	25/26....
SESSION EXPENSE									
Travel & Per Diem	6,000	4,811	5,500	-603	5,500	T 8,920 PD 8,280	3000 6000	ADD \$\$\$\$\$	ADD \$\$\$\$\$
Journal of Proceedings/Adv	3,900	2,214	3,500	0	3,500				
Other Sessional Expense	6,000	2,268	3,200	0	3,200				
OTHER EXPENSES									
Gen. Travel	3,000	3,628	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	ADD \$\$\$\$\$	ADD \$\$\$\$\$	ADD \$\$\$\$\$
Past Grand Master Comm.	800	665	800	0	800				
Audit	19,750	20,320	19,500	0	21,000				
Inv. Management Fees	500	0	500	0	500				
Legal Fees/Bank Charges	800	656	1,200	200	1,100				
Amortization	2,700	5,635	6,000	0	5,700				
PROM./PUBLIC REL.									
Education Committee	350	0	350	0	350	T 100 PD 120	ADD \$\$\$\$\$	ADD \$\$\$\$\$	ADD \$\$\$\$\$
Tabloid Operating Grant	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	3,500				
Grant to Memorial Comm.	600	600	600	0	600				
GM Promotion	1,500	1,500	1,500	545	1,500				
Executive Promotion	500	0	500	0	500				
Public Relations	1,500	596	1,500	149	1,500		ADD	ADD	ADD
Membership Committee	1,500	335	1,500	0	1,500	T 400	ADD \$\$\$\$\$	ADD \$\$\$\$\$	ADD \$\$\$\$\$
Oil Spill Mayflower#297-	0	-40,946	0	0	0	PD 240			
Sovereign Lodge Dues	33,910	27,631	30,000	0	26,950				
RBC Dom Dividend Income	-1,000	-480	-500	0	-500				
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	235,450	182,902	234,360	60,013	234,970				
TOTAL INCOME	235,750	241,821	234,560	59,868	235,100				
SURPLUS-DEFECIT norm	300	58,919	200	145	130				
Bad Debt Expense	0			0	0				
Surplus-DEFECIT	300	58,919	200	145	130				

***NOTE:**

Based on 700 dues paying members s
 Based on 675 dues paying members
 Dues increased by \$2.00 pe



2025 Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly Annual Sessions.

When: Sunday May 4 to Wednesday May 7, 2025.

Where: **Rodeway Inn and Conference Centre, Stratford.**
1144 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 6Z3.

Reservations: 519-273-1150

Quote the following to receive the Special Room Rates:

Group: Odd Fellows and Rebekahs.

You must register directly with the Quality Inn, at the listed number,
to obtain the group rate.

Room Rates: \$144.99 per night single/double occupancy.
1 to 2 persons occupancy per room.

The room rates are subject to the Hospitality Tax and HST.

Room booking begins January 1, 2025.

Check in to the Hotel is after 3:00 pm.

Check out of the Hotel by 11:00 am.

There is no early check in nor late check out.

Reserve your room prior to the Release Date: March 25, 2025.

After March 25 guest rooms and rates are based on availability, at regular Hotel Rates, and are not guaranteed.

A credit card is needed to secure the reservation at the time of booking.

Should you need to cancel your reservation, you must do so **at least 3 days prior** to your scheduled arrival to avoid being billed.

**Please Note: Please Register Early
to avoid disappointment.**



Odd Fellows and Rebekahs 2025 SESSIONAL BANQUET



Rodeway Inn and Conference Centre, Stratford, Hotel Ballroom.

Tuesday May 6, 2025, 6:00 pm. (Seating at 5:30)

Dinner & Installation - \$50.00

Cost, if received in the Grand Lodge Office AFTER April 15 - \$60.00

Dinner (Buffet):

Garden Salad with assorted dressing, Roast Pork Loin, Chicken Breast, Roasted Potato, Carrots and Green Beans, and Assorted Desserts .

To order your tickets, fill in this form and **mail the entire form to:**

The Grand Lodge of Ontario,
157 Frederick Street,
Stratford, Ontario. N5A 3V6.
Attention: Annual Sessional Banquet.

Please make cheques payable to the Grand Lodge of Ontario.
Tickets will be available for pick up at the Sessional Information Booth,
Main Floor, Quality Inn Hotel, Stratford, Ontario.

YES!!! I will be attending the 2025 Sessional Banquet!

Please reserve _____ tickets for me. I have enclosed my cheque or money order.

Tickets cannot be held without the payment.

Hold the tickets in the name of: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____	Lodge: _____	# _____
_____ Tickets	@ \$50.00 \$60.00 if received AFTER April 15	\$ _____ (enclosed)

Please list the names of the people who will be using these banquet tickets.

If you have any special dietary considerations, or, if you use a wheel chair or walker, please list them on the back of this form. Dietary considerations will be given our priority but we must know of your specific needs on this form.

Order your Tickets Early to avoid seating disappointments!

If you would like to be seated as a group (tables seat 8)

you will need to order your tickets as a group.

17

**Annual Sessions - 2025.
Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly, of Ontario.
May 4 - 7, 2025.**

Schedule of Events - subject to change.

Sunday May 4	Event:	Location:
10:00 am	Rebekah Rehearsals	Ballroom
1:00 pm	Rebekah Past President's Lunch	tbd
3:00 pm	Rebekah Past President's Meeting	tbd
6:30 pm	Introductions - Elective Officers	Ballroom
7:00	Divine Service and Memorial Service	Ballroom
Monday May 5	Event:	Location:
8:30am	Rebekah Registration	Rebekah Assembly Room
9:00 am	Rebekah DDP Seminar	Grand Lodge Room
9:00 am	Rebekah Committee Meetings	Rebekah Assembly Room
10:00am	Grand Lodge Committee Meetings	Avon Lodge Hall
12:30 pm	Rebekah Cheque Presentations	Rebekah Assembly Room
1:00 pm	DDGM Seminar	Grand Lodge Room
4:00 pm	Past Grand Master's Meeting	Grand Lodge Room
7:00 pm	Rebekah Fun Night	Rebekah Assembly Room
Tuesday May 6	Event:	Location:
7:15 am	Grand Lodge Degree	Grand Lodge Room
8:00 am	Rebekah Assembly Session	Rebekah Assembly Room
8:00 am	Grand Lodge Session	Grand Lodge Room
11:30 am	Past Grand Master's Luncheon	

11:30 am	Grand Lodge Recess for Lunch	
12:00 noon	Rebekah Assembly Recess for Lunch	
4:00 pm	Joint Installation of the Officers of the Grand Lodge and Rebekah Assembly	Sessional Rooms
5:00 pm	Grand Lodge Pictures	Sessional Rooms
5:30 pm	Banquet Seating and Cash Bar	Ballroom
6:00 pm	Sessional Banquet (by ticket only)	Ballroom
Wednesday May 7	Event:	Location:
8:00 am	Rebekah Assembly Session Reconvenes	Rebekah Assembly Room
8:00 am	Grand Lodge Session Reconvenes	Grand Lodge Room
When Sessions Finish	Travel Safely and in Good Health!	See you next year!
Next Session	Monday May 4 to Wednesday May 6, 2026.	
Avon Lodge Hall	157 Frederick Street Stratford	Enter via back door
Grand Secretary Office	157 Frederick Street Stratford	Enter via back door
Rebekah Assembly Office	Carson's Room	