



Grand Lodge of Ontario,

Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

John R. Nichols, Grand Secretary,
157 Frederick Street, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 3V6.
Telephone: 519-273-8088, Fax: 519-273-8090,
Email: accounts@ioof.net

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

COVER LETTER.

To: All Odd Fellows Lodge Secretaries, current Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Past Elective Grand Lodge Officers and DDGM's of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

From: John R. Nichols, Grand Secretary.

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

This letter is your cover letter for this package and it is not necessary to read this cover letter out to your Lodge. The purpose of this cover letter is to advise you as to what materials you should find in this package and give you some ideas as to how to handle each item. As always, I appreciate your feedback.

Item #1 This item is a copy of all Legislation to be brought before the Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario for May 6th and 7th of 2025, along with all individuals who have signified that they are willing to stand for Election at our Upcoming Annual Session. A copy of the Grand Treasurer's Report and the proposed budget is also included for your study.

I have also included all Legislation to be dealt with at the Annual Session of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario. This information will be useful to Voting Members of the Grand Lodge when the Rebekah Matters Committee presents their Report at the Upcoming Annual Session.

We currently have not heard from a few Lodges as to who their Representative might be or if they are not sending a Representative. *If your Lodge has not sent in the form please do so right away!*

We need these forms so we can generate cheques and materials and we do not generate these items for Lodges, and individuals, from whom we have not received the form. Please, if you haven't already, send in the Registration form, or the form saying there will be no representative, today!



Please ensure that your Lodge Representative, to the Annual Session, receives these materials so they can get the feelings of your Lodge on the Notices of Motion and Budget. With the extensive legislation this year, that will have an effect on all Lodge in the Jurisdiction, it is vitally important to get feedback on the wishes of your Lodge.

- Item #2** This is the Hotel Bedroom Flyer so your Representative can book a room if they have not already done so.
- Item #3** Banquet Ticket Order Form. Banquet Ticket orders have not been coming in too quickly! Reserve yours today before the increase in price!
- Item #4** I am including the Schedule of Events for the Upcoming Annual Session. It is as correct as the information I currently have.

PLEASE NOTE: We currently have a few Lodges that have not filed their Semi Annual Returns. Our Committee on Credentials, and our Grand Master, will not seat, at the Sessions, those who are from Lodges that do not have their Semi Annual Returns properly Filed.

This is everything that should be included in this mailing. Our Sessions are quickly approaching! We still do not have a number of forms in from Individuals and Lodges and will only be preparing materials and cheques for those who have sent in their Registration Forms. If you have not sent yours in I would request that you do so today to avoid any unpleasantries at the Session. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Yours in Friendship, Love and Truth,



**John R. Nichols,
Grand Secretary.**

*Grand Lodge of Ontario,
Independent Order of Odd Fellows,
Lodge Representative's Certificate
2025 Annual Session.*

PLEASE TYPE OR NEATLY PRINT TO FILL IN THIS FORM.

This is to Certify that

Brother/Sister _____

(indicate whether this Representative is a Past Grand _____ or current Noble Grand _____)

Occupation: _____ (former occupation if retired)

Address: _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone: () _____, Email: _____

whose dues are paid in full for the current term, has been duly elected to
represent _____ Lodge, # _____
of _____, Ontario.

Total Number of Days Available. Please indicate by marking with an "X"...					
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday	
Extra Day for Committee Work... <small>Committees start at 10:00 am, May 5.</small>			For Sessions Only... <small>Sessions held on Tuesday and Wednesday starting at 8:30am., May 6 & 7.</small>		

Brother/Sister _____ Past Grand, who is also in Good Standing, has been elected as our "Alternate Representative" in the event that our Elected Representative, named above, is unable to attend.

The Elected Representative Has () has not () received the Grand Lodge Degree.	The Alternate Representative Has () has not () received the Grand Lodge Degree.
--	--

Dated this _____ Day of _____, 20 _____

Lodge Seal

Secretary.

Noble Grand.

**Please send this form to the Grand Secretary,
NO LATER THAN February 28TH.**

If your Lodge will not be sending a Representative, please indicate on this form and return by the due date.

To pick up the Representative's Kit at sessions, go the Registration Desk and show your dues card. Please ensure that rank is listed on the dues card.

Please note that this form is for the use of Lodges for their Representative to the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

Complete and Return this side of the form if your Lodge is not sending a Representative to the upcoming Session of the Grand Lodge.

Please send this form to the Grand Secretary, NO LATER THAN February 28TH.

*Grand Lodge of Ontario,
Independent Order of Odd Fellows,
Representative's Certificate.*

PLEASE TYPE OR NEATLY PRINT TO FILL IN THIS FORM.

This is to Certify that _____ Lodge # _____
of City _____, Ontario, Postal Code _____

will not be sending a Representative
to the upcoming Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

Please return this form to the Office of the Grand Lodge of Ontario:

Grand Lodge of Ontario,
Independent Order of Odd Fellows.
157 Frederick Street,
Stratford, Ontario.
N5A 3V6.

As soon as you possibly can. Sessions are coming up on us very quickly and we need to ensure that we are adequately prepared.

**Section #7, Advance Legislation for this Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.
Notices of Motion to effect changes to the Constitution and Bylaws
of this Grand Lodge of Ontario:**

Notices of Motion For the 2025 Sessions of the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

Notice of Motion No 1 for 2024 postponed to 2025

I, Wayne Geurts, PGM, of Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2024 regular session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that Chapter III, Section 13, (3) as found on page (s) Chapter III - 26 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws be changed in the following way:

(3) Elected Officers, Appointed Officers, Representatives and Past Elected Officers shall receive such compensation as may be computed and appropriated, including per diem for all days they are in attendance at the Annual Sessions of this Grand Lodge at the rates provided in Chapter III Section 17 B (2)(c)

The Section as changed will then read:

(3) Elected Officers, Appointed Officers, Representatives and Past Elected Officers shall receive such compensation as may be computed and appropriated, including per diem for all days they are in attendance at the Annual Sessions of this Grand Lodge at the rates provided in Chapter III Section 17 B (2)(c)

CARRIED - DEFEATED

Notice of Motion No 2 for 2024 postponed to 2025

I, Wayne Geurts, PGM, of Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2024 regular session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2024 regular session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that Chapter III, Section 7, as found on page (s) Chapter III - 13 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws be changed in the following way:

Add a new subsection (8)

(8) Representatives are entitled to receive per diem for all days they are in attendance at the Annual Sessions of this Grand Lodge at the rates provided in Chapter III Section 17 B (2)(c)

The Section as changed will then read:

(8) Representatives are entitled to receive per diem for all days they are in attendance at the Annual Sessions of this Grand Lodge at the rates provided in Chapter III Section 17 B (2)(c)

CARRIED - DEFEATED

Notice of Motion No 3 for 2024 postponed to 2025

I, Wayne Geurts, PGM, of Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2024 regular session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2024 regular session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that Chapter III, Section 17, B, (2) as found on page (s) Chapter III - 40 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws be changed in the following way:

(2) Travel and Per Diem When the Grand Lodge is not in Session, if any standing committee, Special committee or Task Force is required to have meetings or perform duties as specified in the By-Laws relating to the said Standing committee or Task Force, then the members in attendance can request to be reimbursed travel cost up to a distance equal to the distance from the lodge the member regularly attends or represents at the rates provided in Chapter III Section 17 B (2)(b).

5

- (a) Employees or contractors of the Grand Lodge of Ontario when required by their duties, notwithstanding any other provision contained in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, shall be paid travel and per diem at the rates provided.
- (b) The rate of travel shall be ~~15~~ Fifty (50) cents per kilometre, both ways by the most direct highway route.
 - (i) The number of kilometres shall be determined by tables controlled by the Grand Secretary ~~and a further provision that travel within Metropolitan Toronto is subject to a minimum travel allowance of Five Dollars (\$5.00).~~
- (c) The Per Diem allowance shall be ~~thirty dollars (\$30.00)~~ sixty dollars (\$60.00) when in actual attendance at the Executive meetings or its committee meetings called and authorized by its Chairman, or at such other occasions where the Ontario Code of Odd Fellows Laws provides for payment of such Per Diem.

The Section as changed will then read:

(2) Travel and Per Diem

When the Grand Lodge is not in Session, if any standing committee, Special committee or Task Force is required to have meetings or perform duties as specified in the By-Laws relating to the said Standing committee or Task Force, then the members in attendance can request to be reimbursed travel cost up to a distance equal to the distance from the lodge the member regularly attends or represents at the rates provided in Chapter III Section 17 B (2)(b).

- (a) Employees or contractors of the Grand Lodge of Ontario when required by their duties, notwithstanding any other provision contained in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, shall be paid travel and per diem at the rates provided.
- (b) The rate of travel shall be Fifty (50) cents per kilometre, both ways by the most direct highway route.
 - (i) The number of kilometres shall be determined by tables controlled by the Grand Secretary.
- (c) The Per Diem allowance shall be sixty dollars (\$60.00) when in actual attendance at the Executive meetings or its committee meetings called and authorized by its Chairman, or at such other occasions where the Ontario Code of Odd Fellows Laws provides for payment of such Per Diem.

CARRIED - DEFEATED

Notice of Motion # 1 presented at the 2024 Sessions for adoption 2025

I, Brother Bob McMahon, PGM, of Cobourg #136 hereby give notice that at the 2024 regular session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that Chapter III, Section 17 A (1), as found on page CH III-40 of the Ontario Code of General Laws be amended in the following way:

Per Capita Dues. The Grand Lodge shall be entitled to receive from each Odd Fellows Lodge, Per Capita Dues in the sum of ~~Seventy Dollars (\$70.00)~~ One Hundred and Nineteen Dollars (\$119.00) per annum payable by equal semi-annual payments commencing with the Annual Return for the term ended August 31st following Grand Lodge Sessions, for each un-suspended member on its books as shown by its latest Annual Return as to membership. Each Odd Fellows Lodge shall pay a minimum Per Capita Dues equal to seven (7) un-suspended members (Non-Contributing and Associate members exempted).

The Section as changed will then read:

Per Capita Dues. The Grand Lodge shall be entitled to receive from each Odd Fellows Lodge, Per Capita Dues in the sum of One Hundred and Nineteen Dollars (\$119.00) per annum payable by equal semi-annual payments commencing with the Annual Return for the term ended August 31st following Grand Lodge Sessions, for each un-suspended member on

its books as shown by its latest Annual Return as to membership. Each Odd Fellows Lodge shall pay a minimum Per Capita Dues equal to seven (7) un-suspended members (Non-Contributing and Associate members exempted).

CARRIED - DEFEATED

Notice of Motion # 2

I, David Litster, PG, Geneva Lodge #320, Orillia, Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 2025 regular Session of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that Chapter IV Section (28) (a) as found on page Chapter IV - 8 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellows Laws be changed in the following way:

(28) (a) An officer reelected or reappointed must may be again installed.

The Section as changed will then read:

(28) (a) An officer reelected or reappointed may be again installed.

CARRIED - DEFEATED

Legislation to come before the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario.

For your information purposes, and the Report of the Committee on Rebekah Lodges and Other Units.

Notice of Motion 1-2025 for the Rebekah Assembly Sessions

I, Sister Marilyn Wilson, PPIARA, of Alexina Rebekah Lodge # 267 of Grimsby, 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 56 (last paragraph), as found on page(s) 108 of the Constitution of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way:

Reference: Chapter 7, By-Law 56, last paragraph on page Chapter VII-15 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws.

(last paragraph) Member of Standing Committees and Special Committee, when they pertain directly to matters concerning the Rebekah Assembly, shall receive mileage one way ~~but no~~ and per diem if requested to attend any meeting of the committee and a copy of account to be given in the Finance Report.

The Section as changed will then read:

(last paragraph) Member of Standing Committees and Special Committee, when they pertain directly to matters concerning the Rebekah Assembly, shall receive mileage, one way and per diem if requested to attend any meeting of the committee and a copy of account to be given in the Finance Report.

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 2-2025 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 47, as found on page(s) 105 of the Constitution of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way:

Reference: Chapter 7, By-Law 47, on page Chapter VII-13 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws.

The Committee on Credentials shall be composed of four ~~seven (47)~~ members, the Assembly Secretary and three six (36) Representatives, one (1) of whom shall act as Information Clerk. (The balance to remain the same).

The Section as changed will then read:

The Committee on Credentials shall be composed of four (4) members, the Assembly Secretary and three (3) Representatives, one (1) of whom shall act as Information Clerk.

(The balance to remain the same).

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 3-2025 for the Rebekah Assembly Sessions

I, Sister Carson Shulist, Secretary, 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 77, as found on page(s)89 (113) of the Constitution of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way: (Use the back of the sheet as well, if necessary.)

Reference: Chapter 7, Clause 77, on page VII-18 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws Chapter VII, Section 15 Item H of the SGL Code of General Laws

77. - All effect or funds received by the Grand Lodge from any Lodge under the preceding By-law however, that should said Lodge not be restored to fellowship within ~~one~~ three (±) (3) years, the funds of said Lodge shall be appropriated for the benefit of the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Home, or any other charitable purpose. (Code of General Laws, Chap. VII-2, Sec. 5H Chap VII, Sec. 15, Item H). (omitted words to remain the same)

The Section as changed will then read:

77. - All effect or funds received by the Grand Lodge from any Lodge under the preceding By-law however, that should said Lodge not be restored to fellowship within three (3) years, the funds of said Lodge shall be appropriated for the benefit of the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Home, or any other charitable purpose. (Code of General Laws, Chap VII, Sec. 15, Item H). (omitted words to remain the same)

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 4-2025 for the Rebekah Assembly Sessions

I, Sister Carson Shulist, (rank) Secretary, 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 Sec. 15, as found on page(s)59 (75) of the Constitution of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way: (Use the back of the sheet as well, if necessary.)

Reference: Chapter 6, Section 15, on page VI-4 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws MEETING TIME OF COMMITTEES

Sec. 15. - The Committee on Credentials shall meet preceding the Opening of Assembly, at ~~8:30~~ 8 am with registration to start at 8:30 am so as to have the report ready for the Sessions and afternoon committee work. The following committees shall meet at ~~10~~ 9 am or such other time as may be designated preceding the opening of the Rebekah Assembly..... (all omitted words to remain the same).

The Section as changed will then read:

MEETING TIME OF COMMITTEES

Sec. 15. - The Committee on Credentials shall meet preceding the Opening of Assembly, at 8 am with registration to start at 8:30 am so as to have the report ready for the Sessions and afternoon committee work. The following committees shall meet at 9 am or such other time as may be designated preceding the opening of the Rebekah Assembly..... (balance to remain the same)

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 5-2025 for the Rebekah Assembly Sessions

I, Sister Carson Shulist, of Faith Rebekah Lodge #84 of Welland, Ontario, hereby give notice that at the 20 regular Session of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario, I shall move or cause to be moved that Section 5, as found on page 56 (71) of the Constitution of the Rebekah



Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way:

Reference: Chapter VI, Section 5, on page VI-1 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws.

Sec. 5. – (2019) The elective officers of this Rebekah Assembly shall be: President; Vice President; Warden; Secretary, Treasurer and Representative to IARA; who shall be elected on the floor of the annual Assembly as provided by By-law No. 23, except the Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary shall be elected for a period of three (3) years to a maximum of four (4) terms. and The Treasurer shall be elected for a period of Three (3) years to a maximum of three (3) terms, providing each has been previously elected to and served in their respective office. If each has not served in their respective office, she/he shall be elected for a probationary period of one year. Terms of the Secretary and Treasurer shall not run concurrently.

The Section as changed will then read:

Sec. 5. – (2019) The elective officers of this Rebekah Assembly shall be: President; Vice President; Warden; Secretary, Treasurer and Representative to IARA; who shall be elected on the floor of the annual Assembly as provided by By-law No. 23, except the Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary shall be elected for a period of three (3) years to a maximum of four (4) terms. The Treasurer shall be elected for a period of Three (3) years to a maximum of three (3) terms, providing each has been previously elected to and served in their respective office. If each has not served in their respective office, she/he shall be elected for a probationary period of one year. Terms of the Secretary and Treasurer shall not run concurrently.

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 6-2025 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 Section 36A, as found on page 64 (81) of the Constitution of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario be changed in the following way:

Reference: Chapter VI, Section 36, A, on page VI-7 of the Code of Ontario Odd Fellow Laws.

Sec. 36A. - Rebekah Assembly of Ontario shall create a Jurisdictional Rebekah Lodge for members of defunct Lodges. Said Jurisdictional Rebekah Lodge shall be named "Ontario #400". The Assembly Secretary shall mail to each member of the closed Lodge a green withdrawal card and letter asking for required information to be returned to the Assembly office if the member wishes to remain a member of the Order. ~~transfer the members from a closed Lodge to the Jurisdictional Rebekah Lodge so that their membership will be retained.~~ The Assembly President shall serve as Noble Grand, the Assembly Treasurer as Treasurer, the Assembly Secretary as Secretary keeping financial and other records, making reports and returns.

The Section as changed will then read:

Sec. 36A. - Rebekah Assembly of Ontario shall create a Jurisdictional Rebekah Lodge for members of defunct Lodges. Said Jurisdictional Rebekah Lodge shall be named "Ontario #400". The Assembly Secretary shall mail to each member of the closed Lodge a green withdrawal card and letter asking for required information to be returned to the Assembly office if the member wishes to remain a member of the Order. The Assembly President shall serve as Noble Grand, the Assembly Treasurer as Treasurer, the Assembly Secretary as Secretary keeping financial and other records, making reports and returns.

ACCEPTED

DEFEATED

Notice of Motion 7-2025 for the Rebekah Assembly Sessions

I, Sister Carson Shulist, of Faith Rebekah Lodge #84 of Welland, Ontario, hereby give notice