



## Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

*May 15, 2005*

The Board of Regents of the Maine Masonic College assembled at 9:00AM at the Manor Restaurant in Waterville, Maine. Present were Bros. Bowden, King, Kuntz, Landry, Loveitt, D. MacDougall, Nichols, Wing and Chairman George Macdougall.

Following an opening prayer by Bro. Loveitt, the minutes of the prior meeting were distributed. The omission of R.W. Bro. Plummer in the listing of attendees was lamented by Bro. Plummer and the minutes were approved following correction of that oversight. It was suggested that – due to the many matters covered each meeting – minutes be distributed prior to the meeting. The Secretary agreed but added disclaimers about the timing of their delivery. He also distributed samples of an alternative logo. This was accepted and will be used on the website and elsewhere – with thanks to the lady behind the curtain.

Bro. Macdougall reported that his father was ill today and unable to join us despite a strong desire to do so. He also reported on the events at the recent Grand Lodge meeting. A copy of the Report he presented there is now available on our website and the proposal it contained, to wit:

Whereas the Maine Masonic College has been created and organized to provide an extended opportunity for brethren to explore the nature and purposes of Freemasonry and its wider mission in promoting the well-being of all human kind, the Grand Lodge of Maine endorses the efforts of this college and recognizes it as a provider of opportunities for the further enlightenment of the Craft within this Grand Jurisdiction.

This proposal was accepted by vote of the delegates and thus the Maine Masonic College is now a 'recognized entity' within the Grand Lodge of Masons in Maine.

Chairman Macdougall also reported that he had presented at the GL Officers' Training yesterday and was well-received. He said that he had at last come to a clearer realization of the ultimate objective of the MMC vis-à-vis the MEALS Committee. He put forward that the MEALS Committee provides Masons with what the need to know while our endeavor will – hopefully – provide education but leave participants with lots more questions.

Bro. Plummer raised the issue of budgeting for our lofty endeavors. He suggested we embark on a plan for purchasing audio-visual equipment as well as copier paper and overhead transparency film for course use. Bro. King noted the communications costs/modalities involved in presentation at multiple locations. Bro. Nichols was recruited to gather a Committee to formalize the budgeting process.

Bro. Plummer then distributed a course proposal for consideration by the Board of Regents. Bro. King raised a question relative to Bro. Wing's material discussed at the last meeting suggesting it might make a wonderful introduction program and prerequisite to Bro. Plummer's course.

Bro Wing noted that his material had been developed well before the ultimate shape of the MMC was clear but those present noted the strong worth of it nevertheless. Bro. Wing asked the Board to accept the material and use it as they deemed fit and, that being done, the original forming Committee be excused from further obligations. Bro. Wing noted that he would happily continue to work as a member of the Board of Regents but suggested that others might be able to develop this course even

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further. The Regents agreed that this material could be offered as an introductory course and ultimately voted to change the title from “Brief Entered Apprentice Degree Review” to “Introduction to the Tenets of Freemasonry and the Four Cardinal Virtues”. A sub-committee to further develop the course was named consisting of Bros. Plummer, Wing, Kuntz and Walter Macdougall all providing oversight.

There was further discussion about the length and location of Bro. Plummer’s course with the ultimate agreement that it be a one-day lecture-seminar at location(s) to be determined. Bro. Kuntz’s course on Symbolism was also discussed and it was agreed that it would be the appropriate one to follow.

During this discussion, the need for a ‘criteria’ assumption was raised. Due to the very subjective nature of many proposed/planned courses, it was agreed that all MMC material include phraseology to emphasize the expectation that all attendees will be respectful of others ideas/positions and that participation includes an agreement that there may be disagreement but that this should not in any way bar the learning process or affect interpersonal relationships.

Recognizing a need for formalization of our facilities arrangements, the Chairman then appointed a Booking Committee consisting of Bros. King, himself and Nichols. Bro. Plummer agreed to locate contacts for the Maine college system in his area and Bro. Kuntz will check the availability of the Penobscot Room at Acadia Hospital. Others were encouraged to suggest leads/locations. It was also generally agreed that the Lodge room is generally an inappropriate venue for our courses due to its poor seating, cavernous feel, bad acoustics, and more. “The learning environment makes a difference to the learning process.”

Without realizing that work might be involved, the Secretary agreed to put a copy of the MMC brochure on the website, check out banner signage for the college, create a survey form for the web, plot the results via MapPoint software and design stationary for the Board of Regents. In his spare time, he will orchestrate world peace and balance the state budget.

Because it was agreed at the outset that Regents should serve three year terms, an election was held so as to begin the rotation process. Bros. Plummer, George and Walter Macdougall were elected to three year terms, Bros. Nichols, Kuntz and Wing were elected to two year terms, and all others will begin their service with a one year term. Discussion of continuing after the completion of a term ensued and it was restated that we could add anyone interested to our ‘Permanent Faculty’.

As with prior meetings, the Regents could have continued for several more hours but it was agreed that the meeting should be adjourned. This was done with prayer by Bro. Loveitt at 12:25 PM. Some Regents stayed to enjoy friendship and fellowship over a meal.

Respectfully submitted,

***Edward L. King***

Edward L. King  
Secretary, Board of Regents  
Maine Masonic College