



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

June 12, 2005

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

Following an opening prayer by Bro. Plummer, the Regents headed directly into a discussion of the Fraud course now in consideration. Bro. Don explained the steps he'd taken so far to determine level of interest and capability of MMC to provide this offering. He has made preliminary contacts with those already engaged in combating fraud and this may ultimately result in our decision to partner with or sponsor a program rather than reinventing the wheel ourselves. It was agreed that this course really is applicable to our elder members and because some Masonic halls are already hosting groups of those most vulnerable to fraud, there is good potential for ease in 'first site' selection. The options of 'sponsorship', 'partnership', and other forms of working with non-Masonic groups were explored. A draft letter to one potential partner was approved and approval was given to explore a working relationship with a second non-profit which had been suggested to us. Bro. Don will report on his progress at our next meeting. During this discussion another possible topic for presentation or partnership was suggested: **Preventing Youth Violence**, perhaps using a similar working arrangement with a different partner.

After this vigorous exchange of ideas and possibilities, the Regents turned to the more mundane task of approving the minutes of the prior meeting which had been made available on the MMC website. Two corrections were noted, to wit: the Secretary in his spare time is expected to balance the FEDERAL budget rather than the state one and the spelling of Bro. Don's name. In the latter case, however, there was some question as to whether any of the folks with that name which phonetically appears as McDougall really know what their name *is or should be*. The Secretary was given leave to call them anything except late for lunch!

Returning to the serious, PGM Walter Macdougall (spelling believed to be consistent with his preferred choice) then spoke of the 'essence' of Freemasonry. He talked of the synthesis of Enlightenment and Society and offered a panoramic view of what the Maine Masonic College can be as it moves forward. From a background of Spirituality, Rationality, and Morality within our teachings, we have the opportunity to address the loss of these things within our society. Our challenge moving forward is to consider the lesson taught in our lecture on the Beehive, to wit: a fund of science and industry is implanted in the human mind. Society today may have lost the touchstones on which so much of our prior civilization was built and we have the combined wisdom within the Fraternity to approach these issues. This motivational talk was invigorating to all. Bro. Walter further shared a story on wisdom he gained as a young man on Exchange Street in Bangor. Please see him for more details.

Bro. Nichols presented a 'bare-bones' proposal for course budget of our 'Symbols: Who Needs Them?' presentation.

Bro. Plummer gave a synopsis of his suggested contents for the College By-Laws. He was encouraged to proceed post-haste. The Secretary then raised the issue of meeting leadership in the absence of the Chairman and while Bro. Nichols' attention was diverted temporarily, he was elected Vice-Chair.

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There was discussion surrounding Course Evaluation Form development. We want to ensure that all teaching occurs to consider various/varied learning styles. This is an objective that needs more in-depth consideration. We further need to move our ‘Course Proposal’ from its current draft format to a finalized form. It appears that there may be additional changes needed for this including instructions for completion for those who are not otherwise familiar with such documentation in the educational venue. It was suggested that a preliminary-interest form might be created as well. Additionally, we need to develop a standardized registration form that can be incorporated into brochures etc. Bro. King agreed to work on the latter.

Discussion then moved to courses in development and the reiteration that the Symbols course can/will consist of three steps: Symbols to be followed by Myth and then Philosophy although agreed that each course should stand on its own as well. Dates for presentation were discussed at length including times to ‘stay away from’. It was concluded that both the Symbols and the Myth course should be presented in the Waterville area: the first on October 8th and the second on December 10th.

The need for bibliographies for each course was further discussed. It was also suggested articles will likely be distributed – particularly for the more intense courses – simultaneous with course registration.

Other potential course titles were suggested including: ***Finding the Hero Within–The Archetypes That Drive Us.***

Finally, the development of a ‘Continuing Masonic Education’ (CME) certificate of some kind was discussed. This will be explored further at future meetings.

Recognizing the intensity of discussion during the preceding three hours, the Regents agreed to adjourn at 12:25 PM but to reconvene two weeks hence on June 26th at the same location and time.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

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Secretary, Board of Regents
Maine Masonic College