



## Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

*June 26, 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, Landry, D. MacDougal, W. Macdougall, Nichols, Plummer, Grand Master Tusch, and Chairman George Macdougall.

Following an opening prayer by Bro. Plummer, the Chairman outlined the day's agenda and the Secretary distributed online survey results to date. Bro. King explained some of the things he noted when compiling these. All agreed that results so far may be quite unrepresentative of the membership as a whole and accordingly it was agreed that a paper copy of the form will be created to be distributed in various venues with an emphasis on those who do NOT have computer access. One such venue will be the upcoming Grand Lecturer's picnic on 14 August and another will be through the Grand Master's Newsletter. It was also noted that some of the comments arising from the survey are best addressed by other persons/parts of the fraternity and accordingly these will be passed along as appropriate. Specific discussion ensued regarding one response which charged the College as being for "politically-connected Brothers". All agreed that we must work diligently to ensure such perceptions are addressed quickly and convincingly - although some Board members were pleasantly surprised to learn that they were 'politically-connected' somehow. Some pondered the need for a 'Masonic roundtable' venue but since the GM is scheduling something of this nature, the College won't need to.

The Regents then received a copy of the proposed By-Laws as written by RW Bro. Plummer. Although there were a few minor changes suggested, the work overall was outstanding and Bro. Plummer was complimented on his efforts. We expect to have a final draft to approve at the next meeting.

The subject of a College Inauguration was broached and, after discussion, it was agreed that such a program was appropriate for this type of venture in accordance with the traditions of other institutions of higher learning. Just as Masons lay cornerstones for new buildings, so too do educational entities have inaugurals and in that vein, we proceed with these plans. PGM Walter Macdougall offered to obtain more information on form and format as well as to write an article for the Maine Mason and ensure that all PGMs were invited. It was noted that such a ceremony could be one that would bring together a broad scope of interested Masons if it were to be coupled with an educational opportunity via location, speaker, etc. For the "woo-woo" factor, it was suggested we have a reception at the Holman Frost House (Bro. Frost having been a charter member of United Lodge). In order to keep costs reasonable and allow maximum flexibility in addressing attendance, however, it was agreed that the Lodge Hall might be more appropriate. October 15<sup>th</sup> was proposed as a date with a speaker and presentations in the morning open to all followed by a 'by reservation' luncheon and perhaps a Frost House tour. The Regents then broke into numerous ad-hoc sub-committees for further discussion.

Upon return to a general meeting format, MW Bro. Macdougall offered to write the article for the Maine Mason about this and will also ensure that the Past Grand Masters are all officially invited.

Upcoming classes was the next topic for discussion. The proposed Fraud class has hit a snag with the untimely death of the individual in Bangor with whom initial discussions had been held. The planers for this course will attempt to contact COMBAT again and to find a direct contact with the TRIAD (County Sheriff's Group). Hartland already has a seniors group meeting at the Masonic Hall and this might be the logical place to begin. We'll move forward on this.

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The Grand Master noted increased public awareness of and interest in Freemasonry. He asked if a presentation in an adult education format might be possible. The title of “Everything You Wanted To Know About Freemasonry That A Freemason Didn’t Think He Could Tell You” as something done previously was mentioned though the Regents collectively seemed to feel this wouldn’t really fit in the ‘adult ed’ format. Types of programs of this nature previously done within the jurisdiction were noted with particular mention of Bro. Bowden’s. He will share this with the Regents at their next meeting.

A question was raised as to the need for categorizing classes into a numeric system similar to a college course but it was observed that we’d already approved a categorization matrix in the Course Proposal Form. Another course title proposed was “An In-Depth Study of the Four Cardinal Virtues”.

Ultimately, with whip hidden only slightly behind his back, the Chairman requested that ALL course proposals be presented in writing at the next meeting.

Bro. Plummer told the Regents who had not been at the Maine Lodge of Research Installation yesterday of the paper presented by the newest MLR Fellow, MW Wayne T. Adams. It challenged the MMC to reach the highest goals and was most inspiring to those who were there.

The next meeting date was set as 24 July: same time, same place. The Grand Master encouraged the Regents to proceed apace with their work. Adjournment was 12:20 PM with some remaining for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

**Edward L. King**

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



**Post-Meeting Notes**

During lunch, the Regents who stayed pondered the new chicken item on the menu and how much strawberry shortcake was enough along with possible ways of recognizing those who take MMC Courses, the funding of equipment and the issue of up-coming course expenses (books, room-prepayment, etc.)

The Secretary was asked to note the conversation for consideration at the July meeting. Specifically, the idea of a 'Maine Masonic College Membership' which would allow an interested party (Mason or non) to purchase an annual or (perhaps) multi-year 'membership granting a reduced course tuition fee, possibly a copy of course materials even if not attending, and/or even some other form of recognition (pin, certificate, coffee mug, or who-knows-what). How this might impact on umbrella liability insurance through Grand Lodge (another issue needing further investigation) was unknown but the recognition through affiliation concept might be an idea that could help get more involvement. ELK