



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

August 7, 2005

The Board of Regents of the Maine Masonic College assembled at 9:10AM at the Manor Restaurant in Waterville, Maine. Present were Bros. Bowden, Hazard, King, Loveitt, W. Macdougall, Nichols, Plummer, and Chairman George Macdougall.

Following an opening prayer by Bro. Loveitt, the minutes of the preceding meeting were distributed and approved. The Secretary noted the discrepancy between the minutes' statement that our first four courses would be for Masons only while later discussion had indicated that this applies to only the first two. The change was confirmed and will be noted in the minutes of this day. Bro. Nichols reported on the Grand Master's enthusiasm for the work of the College.

The Regents then moved directly to a lengthy discussion of the issues of organization with Regent Paul Hazard discussing scenarios and options. It was subsequently agreed that it would be inappropriate for the Maine Masonic College to consider a status independent of the Grand Lodge. Discussing finances, however, it was noted that we will have a large number of small financial transactions and that modeling ourselves on a lodge (the Maine Lodge of Research was frequently used as the example) that we should have our own Treasurer and checking account. Obviously, our finances would be under the aegis of the Grand Lodge just as all Masonic organizations are but having a Treasurer and handling finances just as is done in a Craft lodge seemed most expedient and responsible. The Secretary will obtain a taxpayer ID for the entity and we will elect a Treasurer at the next meeting. Those absent are most likely to receive 'the call' so be forewarned.... The Regents voted to add the office and duties of Treasurer to the By-Laws. Bro. Plummer will make the modifications and forward the same to Bro. Bowden who will put them in appropriate format for approval by the Grand Master.

Bro. King raised the issue of extended liability not foreseen by the Grand Lodge, particularly as it applies to courses we will offer to the general public in public facilities. It was agreed that the Chairman will invite the Chair of the Grand Lodge Insurance Committee, Bro. Dixon, to our next meeting so that they will be apprised of our actions.

Next on the agenda was the project management planning process. Bro. King had assembled a large chart using critical chain methodology in order to apprise the Regents of the many upcoming tasks.

Discussion of the Educator's Booklet (Instructor's Packet) ensued and the Regents reviewed the excellent sample offered by Bro. Plummer as promised last meeting. This was received enthusiastically and it was noted that it should be of great help to the non-professional teacher. Copies will be provided to all Regents at the next meeting.

The Grand Lecturers' Picnic at Bro. Landry's house in St. Albans on August 14th was discussed. The Grand Master has asked that as many Regents as possible attend so as to publicize our efforts further. Several agreed to attend after Bro. Nichols indicated that food is available in abundance at this event.

The College Inauguration was the next topic of discussion and Bro. Walter Macdougall reviewed plans and possibilities. Suggestions were made for making the day a meaningful one and potential invitees were identified. Contacts will be made with them immediately as the hoped-for date of Saturday, October 15th will be quickly upon us. Bro. Macdougall suggested that we needed a committee to

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pursue this. He immediately found himself heading that Committee consisting of Bros. Plummer, Don McDougal and King.

The Regents then reviewed the excellent material that Bro. Loveitt had prepared for a home study course several years ago. There was much discussion about who could/should do such a program and whether this wasn't under the purview of the Masonic Education and Lodge Service Committee.

Bro. King then distributed a sample brochure he had prepared as a mock-up for the first program. It was also suggested that we create a 'course calendar' for the ensuing year and Bro. King will develop that as well.

Bro. Bowden then distributed copies of an outline on what he had done for Lodge Fellowship Nights on the topic of 'general Masonic information' as a potential starting point for a course in that area. A suggestion was made that this be expanded/reworked for a more general audience and created with a title in the realm of "What Dan Brown didn't tell you about Freemasonry". Bro. Bowden agreed to put these thoughts into a course proposal if possible.

As at all past meetings, the enthusiasm about the College's progress and hopes for the future made closing the meeting difficult. The next meeting of the Regents is scheduled for September 18th: same time and place. The meeting was closed at 12:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

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

Secretary's Addendum:

During the period between meetings, the time and place for the College Inauguration was set at October 15, 2005 at the University of Southern Maine Library with Joseph Wood, Ph.D., Provost & VP of USM as our guest speaker. Invitations to Masonic dignitaries are being sent by the Grand Master and notice has been sent by the Grand Lodge office to all Secretaries in the Grand Secretary's monthly mailing. Reservations are to be made with Ed King, Secretary. Luncheon will follow at \$7/per person and all reservations must be honored.