



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

September 18, 2005

The Board of Regents of the Maine Masonic College assembled at 9:05AM in the middle of the dining room at the Manor Restaurant in Waterville, Maine. The restaurant claimed to have not known we were going to be there! Present were Bros. Bowden, Don MacDougal, King, W. Macdougall, Plummer, Wing and Chairman George Macdougall.

At the outset of the meeting, there was some confusion amongst the workmen as to who was going to make the changes to the By-Laws to reflect the addition of a Treasurer. The person with the most copies to distribute – Bro. Bowden – won the contest, however, and his changes were passed. He also explained the process of having lodge by-laws approved by the Grand Master and suggested we follow that route even if slight modifications were needed due to our ‘non-lodge’ status. The Secretary was directed to sign documentation that will be prepared similar to the Form 14 format by Bro. Bowden. A seal was discussed and the Secretary was instructed to look into this.

Bro. Plummer then distributed the Instructor’s Guidebook that he had put together. This extensive work should definitely assist ALL instructors as we go forward. All Regents present received a copy and Bro. Plummer was complimented on his VERY comprehensive work on this project. The Secretary will ensure all Regents and Instructors receive a copy of this.

Based on the just-approved By-Law changes, election of a Treasurer became the next item of business. As Bro. Landry was not present, his name was placed into nomination. He was elected unanimously.

The Chairman noted that Bro. Dixon of the Grand Lodge Insurance Committee was sick with the flu but would be invited to our next meeting to discuss liability of course offerings and GL coverage.

Bro. King then discussed the survey results from several perspectives. It was agreed that this first survey has now served its purpose and should be removed from the web and the radar chart of the results placed there. The course descriptions will be changed to reflect the current status of course approvals. He also noted the several offers from those who were willing to do course presentations. The topics were discussed and ‘sorted’ as to whether they are appropriate for MMC or would be more appropriate for the MEALS Committee. The Chairman will make contact with all of those who had made suggestions to discuss their potential contributions further. Many of the suggestions were directly in line with courses that had been ‘brainstormed’ as being very good ideas at the first Regents meeting so it is with anticipation that we can look forward to having continuing educational opportunities.

The course proposal from Bro. Christian Ratliff was reviewed and approved. It is felt that this will be an excellent presentation. Christian is amenable to presenting in either the spring or fall; after discussion, it was agreed that this would be an outstanding course to start our fall term. So voted.

During this discussion, a ‘Summer Seminar’ was mentioned. The concept immediately caught fire in the minds of the Regents present and it was agreed that this will be discussed in detail immediately after we’ve gotten the Inaugural behind us.

The details of the Inaugural were then discussed with ideas and suggestions flowing freely. Some assignments were made for various tasks and Bro. King is keeping the registration list. Bro. Mark

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Ruston has an excellent meal planned and our Keynote Speaker has a topic of interest to all. A \$150 honorarium was approved. Music arrangements and having a Grand Chaplain present were noted.

Bro. Don MacDougal discussed the offering of ‘Consumer Fraud’ and submitted a course proposal. After discussion about presentors, Bro. Don was encouraged to do this himself rather than our attempting to rely on other persons/organizations for the lead role. He agreed and we will plan this for the fall. A state-wide bank may become a partner in this project and he’ll explore that potential.

Bro. Reginald Wing then discussed the two courses he will present: Tenets of Freemasonry and The Four Cardinal Virtues. While the titles may seem to be duplicative of other course offerings, a review of the content of all courses shows that they will likely be quite complimentary. Bro. Wing will complete the appropriate forms and the courses received tentative approval by the Regents pending submission of paperwork.

Bro. King suggested that in ALL of our course topics, a ‘reading list’ would be a great asset. While each course will likely have its own list of suggested readings (either before or after the class occurs), he felt that the creation of reading lists on the topics the college is presenting would be helpful to the greater Masonic and general community. He emphasized, however, his feeling that the usefulness of this would be from an ANNOTATED bibliography rather than simply a list of books. All present agreed and, having suggested it, Bro. King was tasked with making it happen.

The next meeting was set for October 23, 2005. Same time; same place. In the meantime, we will all be together at the Inaugural ceremony on October 15th.

Because of the meeting location within the dining room, we were forced to close at 11:55. Most Regents stayed to enjoy lunch and further discuss the many ideas for courses that could be presented. Because Waterville seemed to be on the route from Fort Kent (or some similarly distant place) to Buxton, as we were finishing our meals, we were joined by Vice-Chairman Bro. Nichols.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

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Secretary, Board of Regents
Maine Masonic College