



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

October 23, 2005

The Board of Regents of the Maine Masonic College assembled at 9:00AM at the Manor Restaurant in Waterville, Maine. Present were Bros. Kuntz, Landry, King, Loveitt, McDougal, Walter Macdougall, Plummer and Wing. Vice Chairman Nichols arrived later, attempting to blame his poor wife for his tardiness – something none of the Regents accepted! The meeting was chaired by Bro. Walter Macdougall until his arrival.

The minutes of the 9/18 and 10/15 meetings were approved with one correction: the presence of Bro. Wing at the September meeting was added to the 9/18 minutes.

The idea mentioned at the last meeting – that of having some type of summer seminar program – was discussed. Whether this would be appropriate with the Grand Master's Leadership Seminar now in its planning stages or as a separate function was debated and it was agreed that discussions would occur with those planning the other program to explore the potential for a synergy. There was additional discussion about the potential for 'big name' Masonic scholars.

From the theoretical to the material, the discussion moved to finances. Bro. King explained the bills accumulated for the Inauguration Ceremony costs. Bro Loveitt moved that henceforth the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer act as a Finance Committee to approve payment of bills and this was so voted. The Treasurer will, as with any Masonic Lodge, make all records available as appropriate. The Secretary also addressed the meals ordered but not paid for at the Inaugural ceremony. It was moved, seconded and passed that there would be no further attempt to collect any amounts still remaining due.

Bro. King suggested that the Regents consider some type of 'associate membership' in the Maine Masonic College. Such membership could provide additional funds to assist in operations and to cover expenses when attendance is below expectations. In return, the member would have a closer relationship with the College, receiving various benefits. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the 'Friends of the Maine Masonic College' would be formed with annual dues of \$20. This will provide donors with printed notices of all course catalogues and program announcements as well as a \$5 discount on each course taken. It was suggested that a notice of this be inserted in the Maine Mason magazine to reach a wider audience.

The costs of producing a College catalog along the lines of that done for distribution at the Inaugural Ceremony were discussed. High quality paper and color printing were seen as quite helpful in creating an image of quality though it was noted that b&w copies could be produced at a very low cost. Inquiries will be made into printing costs for a brochure similar to the one Ed did. It was also agreed that the Secretary will make copies for mailing to the District Deputies with a covering letter just as soon as arrangements are finalized for the first two courses. Press releases were also discussed.

The issue of course instructors' personal expenses was raised. It was noted that those who present popular courses would be called upon to devote considerable time as well as travel expenses in the service of the College. After deliberation, it was agreed that the College would reimburse instructors at a rate of .20 per mile, said amounts to be budgeted as part of the normal meeting expenses.

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This led to a further discussion of finances including the need to submit a formal budget proposal to Grand Lodge. Various needs were explored and the Secretary will provide the Vice-Chairman with projected costs for software to manage registrations/mailings and a PowerPoint projector.

The Secretary expressed a perceived need for a software program to handle program registration issues. There was also a suggestion that we should be tracking credit hours (contact hours of meeting) for issuance of some type of course completion certificate. Bro. MacDougall noted that as a teacher, he could use certain courses to fulfill his continuing education requirements and thus such certificates would be of value.

The Secretary then suggested the Regents consider the possibility of book sales at meetings. It was felt that this would have some advantages in terms of making texts available to those interested but there are also potential pitfalls including the ‘schlepping’ of heavy stock back and forth, carrying of inventory, etc. Bro. King will prepare a white paper on this subject for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Fearful that the Secretary might have even more ‘bright ideas’, the meeting was adjourned at 12:21PM with the next meeting set for November 20, 2005 at the same location.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

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

Post-script:

It should be noted that a revised logo has been created to incorporate the larger torch. It appears at the top of these minutes.