



# Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

*November 20, 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 (who brought the cookies!), Kuntz, Landry, Loveitt, McDougal, Walter Macdougall, Nichols, Plummer, Wing, Grand Master Tusch (who brought the donuts!), and Chairman George Macdougall. If the Manor sees fit to leave some napkins next time, we'll be even happier.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Bro. Loveitt and the Chairman reviewed the many items on the day's agenda. The minutes of the preceding meeting were distributed and the 'cut and paste' inabilities of the Secretary were immediately noted. The names Macdougall, McDougal, McMuffin and more were discussed. Changes were noted. The Vice Chairman tried to (ostensibly) 'correct the record' regarding his tardiness at the last meeting but his attempt to yet again blame his wife was rejected by the Regents.

The courses immediately upcoming were reviewed as to needs/issues. The Secretary will contact Grand Lodge regarding their supply of 'The Craft and its Symbols'. If insufficient, he'll make arrangements to procure copies for the February seminar. Bros. Plummer and Walter Macdougall will be seeking permission to copy portions of certain texts for their courses. Bro. King recounted the many travails of making meeting arrangements and Bro. Kuntz has most generously offered him two free psychological counseling sessions to assist in this task (not that he didn't need such help long before this, but....) Various other alternatives were suggested and the goal is to have a contract in place prior to Thanksgiving. Subsequent publicity was also discussed and the GM suggested that brochures be sent to the District Reps as well as the District Deputies. We'll also be using the GM and GS newsletters for publicity.

In the middle of the 'needs' discussion, the issue of getting our banking situation stabilized was brought up by the Treasurer. Bro. King read the reply he had received from the Grand Treasurer when he sought information about this. It was reaffirmed that the College should be – as much as possible – similar to a 'special purpose' lodge in terms of conceptual framework, meaning that we would not burden Grand Lodge with our very active banking needs arising from course tuition, book costs and sales, etc. The Grand Master will get to the bottom of how a new lodge handles these matters and will communicate this information to the Treasurer. Meanwhile, the Treasurer was authorized to cash the check he has in hand (if possible) to discharge the pending obligations of the College. Bro. Bowden provided some sobering information from the State of Maine on liability and it was agreed that the Chairman would contact Wor. Justin Hartford to consider with the Regents the insurance ramifications of publicly-attended meetings sponsored by the College.

There was discussion of the programs relative to Identity Theft. Bro. McDougal gave a review of the plans to date which include presentations in January in the Portland area, Lewiston-Auburn in March, Bangor in April and Aroostook in late-April or May. The idea of a light luncheon was discussed and it was voted that we would do these presentations in conjunction with Northeast Combat and/or AARP as appropriate. These will be considered 'Extension

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Courses' rather than actual courses of the MMC and noted as such. Bro. McDougal will get information to the Secretary about the locations/dates/etc.

Discussion then ensued about the upcoming Grand Lodge Leadership Conference at Castine and the role the Maine Masonic College might/should play. It was ultimately agreed that the College would – if requested by the Grand Master – prepare and present any type of program desired. Having the Maine Lodge of Research have their Lessing Lecturer there was also mentioned as a possibility. It was felt, however, that the already crammed daily schedule might make College involvement undesirable and cause the program focus to be lost. It was simultaneously agreed that the College would begin plans immediately for its own (summer?) seminar. A winter program was suggested as an alternative. PGM Macdougall was named as Chair and will appoint his committee members.

Bro. Walter Macdougall then spoke on the non-commodity aspects of Freemasonry. His remarks were sobering and gave us all pause. Reminiscent of the famous Masonic author Dwight Smith in 'Wither Are We Traveling?', Walter's observations were most timely and – as always - very well received.

Copies of course proposals submitted by Bros. Wing and King (say THAT fast ten times!) were circulated and approved by the Regents. However, the prior discussion along with the presentations by these two Brothers brought to light the need for *someone* to be overseeing the sequencing of courses in addition to having recommendations as to appropriateness of course content etc. Bro. King moved that the Chair appoint a Committee on Faculty and Curriculum with Bro. Bowden as its Chair and the College Board Chair and Secretary as Ex-Officio. Before Bro. Bowden could leap over the table, the motion was seconded and passed. Bro. Loveitt noted that he is continuing development on a home study course on protocol.

Bro. King then showed the progress he had made on the creation of a reading list. He noted that input from the Regents would be necessary to make it a viable tool for Masonic scholars. It was emphasized that any bibliography should include non-Masonic works and to that end, Bro. King noted their inclusion on his sample and distributed a proposed policy statement for consideration. It was moved, seconded and passed that the policy statement be included on the website when the book list is placed there. It was also voted to pay for the software to create the list: \$40.

With many ideas still percolating in the minds of those present but the need pressing for some to attend yet another meeting at 1:00PM in Newport, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM with the next meeting set for December 4, 2005 at 9:00am at Martin's Manor in Waterville.

Respectfully submitted,

**Edward L. King**

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Secretary, Board of Regents

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