



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

April 23, 2006

The Board of Regents of the Maine Masonic College assembled at 9:00AM at Martin's Manor in Waterville. Once again, the facility – despite our having a reservation – had superseded our booking and we found ourselves in a corner of the restaurant while hundreds of Red Hat Ladies took the attention of restaurant personnel. Present were Bros. Bowden, King, Kuntz, Landry, W. Macdougall, D. McDougal, Nichols, Plummer, Wing, and Chairman George Macdougall.

The meeting was opened with a word of prayer by Bro. Plummer. Our Chairman thanked Walter Macdougall for the excellent presentation he had done in Newport earlier in the month. Those who had attended the course could readily agree that it was not idle familial patronization but that Walter had been – following the example of our two earlier presentors – truly excellent.

Moving on, the minutes of the preceding meeting were accepted as distributed without correction. The Chairman then outlined the day's agenda hoping that we might manage to get through it all.

The first agenda item was discussion of the various registration scenarios that the Secretary/Registrar felt needed to be addressed. Following a prepared list of various situations, it was agreed that:

- A course registration can be cancelled up to 10 days in advance with full refund.
- A course cancellation after that threshold time will receive no refund or credit as arrangements for food and materials will have been made.
 - However, if there is a death or illness, we will issue a refund (relying on the integrity of the registrant to appropriately address circumstances).
- Walk-ins are strongly discouraged. The Registrar was given authority as final arbiter to accept or not based on availability of food, whether prior course preparation had been completed, etc.
- The spouse of the speaker will be accorded his/her lunch for free.
- Others attempting to attend for lunch will be strongly discouraged as lunchtime discussion is to be considered part of the educational opportunity afforded.
- All persons, regardless of Grand Lodge/College rank/station will pay the same registration fees.
- Whether persons will be allowed to audit the course will be left to joint decision between Registrar and Instructor.
- We will continue to note the availability of 'scholarships' and these can be of the amount/percentage deemed by the Registrar to be most appropriate to the circumstances.

Overall, the Registrar was given authority to make whatever decisions he deems appropriate in matters involving course registration and fees relating thereto, with the admonition to act consistently and fairly.

Discussion of acceptance of PayPal for course registration was discussed at length with consideration of the benefits (much easier to register online and very appealing to those who find downloading a form, filling it out, and sending it with a check to be onerous) versus the drawbacks (we lose 2.9%+.30 per transaction). It was agreed that this could be a convenience for some and – coupled with no-penalty cancellation – could greatly encourage registration well in advance and accordingly, the Registrar was instructed to proceed.

Book sales were then discussed and – as might be expected – another lengthy discussion ensued. It was agreed that the purpose of book sales was to make educational items available to the Craft and not to simply raise money. After discussion of options, it was agreed that the College will arrange with Kenny Roberts of Virginia to supply our needs. Ed will make arrangements for the first order and early-on will pass this off to another member of the Board.

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The Secretary then presented a listing of items for purchase by the College. The list was reviewed and discussed following which it was voted to proceed with the purchase of the various items as submitted and the Secretary was encouraged to obtain the printer as soon as possible.

A discussion of class planning occurred and Richard Bowden is to take the lead in the coordination and scheduling. A list of courses 'in process' was provided by the Secretary and reviewed.

The date for the next meeting of the Board of Regents was set for May 21, 2006. Because of the numerous problems with Martin's Manor, the Chairman will look for an alternative meeting location and communicate that information to the Regents.

Elections were then held and Bros. King, Landry, and Loveitt were each elected to a three year term and Bros. Bowden and Don McDougall to a 2 year term, their present one year terms expiring at this meeting. It was recognized that we were presently over our number of Regents as stipulated by the By-Laws. Accordingly, the Secretary was instructed to prepare a change to be voted on at our next meeting increasing the number of Regents to TWELVE, with four rotating each year.

Assuming the proposal passes, the following would reflect the Regent's status:

Terms expiring in 2009: King (2nd Term); Landry (2nd Term); Loveitt (2nd Term); <VACANT>

Terms expiring in 2008: George Macdougall (1st Term); Walter Macdougall (1st Term); McDougall (2nd Term); Plummer (1st Term)

Terms expiring in 2007: Bowden (1st Term); Kuntz (1st Term); Nichols (1st Term); Wing (1st Term)

Following this, the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were all re-elected to their present offices despite heavy objection by those so named. Even being at the meeting doesn't seem to help!

Nominees for the expired term of Bro. Hazard were suggested and the Chairman make contact.

Discussion of agenda items for the next meeting occurred and Bro. Plummer presented several recommendations for going forward with Regents' meetings including the potential for a retreat for the College Regents. He also encouraged the scheduling of Round Table Discussions as part of the curriculum and it was suggested that a Course might be "Freemasonry in Popular Literature" while a Round Table could be on Anti-Masonry.

Course evaluations for the past two courses were distributed and the Secretary realized that sharing of copies was detrimental to his health. Accordingly, the new printer will allow sufficient numbers for all!

As the restaurant was becoming increasingly noisy, the meeting closed at 12:00 and we proceeded to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

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Secretary, Board of Regents

Maine Masonic College

SECRETARY'S NOTE: AT THIS MEETING, THE CHECKBOOK AND ALL FUNDS IN HAND WERE DELIVERED FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE TREASURER. THIS NOW BRINGS US INTO COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARD MASONIC PROTOCOLS AND THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE GRAND TREASURER REPRESENTING THE MAINE MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.