



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

October 15, 2006

The Board of Regents of the Maine Masonic College came to order at 9:10AM at Governor's Restaurant in Waterville after we convinced the hostess to open the room door with a knife. (Don't even ask, folks!) Present were Bros. Bowden, King, Kuntz, Landry, W. Macdougall, D. McDougal, Richardson, and Vice Chairman Steve Nichols presiding. George Macdougall and Reggie Wing were excused due to family commitments.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were distributed and accepted without correction. The Treasurer's report was presented by Bro. Kuntz. There ensued some discussion about the need for the College to have an internal auditing committee. Eric will contact the Grand Treasurer and get his input on this as well. Bro. King distributed the Course Status sheet and discussion ensued.

A broad-ranging discussion then ensued on various issues including:

- The cancellation of classes and instructor responsibility (No decisions were made)
- At what point we 'pull the plug' due to low attendance on a class (Some agreement on 1 week but it all depends on location, instructor, etc. so really, no agreement)
- What we'll be doing for a broader dissemination of course availability (Thoughts by Ed about publishing catalogs including plan to do them without dates and insert separate sheet with them - general agreement; Ed's plan to attend statewide officers' meetings and next GL elected officers meeting plus getting copies to MEALS Committee meeting, mailing to DDs and DERs plus mailing to various Masters and Wardens Associations with Dave Richardson to get contact info to Ed)

Also discussed was the feasibility of creating CD/DVD format non-interactive learning and promotional material. Media development dropping costs and having an 'introduction' piece available for various venues seemed worthwhile. Don will speak with Kern Kelly about doing some raw taping at Walter's course for this. (Don also apologized for not letting Kern know about the meeting today!) The Regents also agreed that some courses could be captured and distributed via a 'passive' format and that a course like 'Ritual Development' might lend itself to that format. David suggested that some material in an available format could offer a good learning/discussion opportunity for the small, interested group of Masons who might enjoy a short presentation they could share as very appealing. *(Note: In the midst of other things, this idea did not get its due but on afterthought: WOW! What a concept for further development!)*

Walter discussed the round-table being planned for the 25th where a small group of younger Masons would meet in Carmel to pursue what they see as the future of the College both for their own interests and those of their communities. Other focus sessions may be held in the future to assist in determining 'customer' needs.

Walter also suggested that we see if Macoy Publishing might donate a set of books that we could have available at courses. Steve Nichols will make the contact.

It was voted to approve the contract with UNE for the program in 2007 and Walter volunteered to make some calls to see if we can increase the number of registrants for Charlie's course.

Don McDougal presented another report from the Committee on Basic Curriculum which was well received. This led to a broad-ranging discussion of the need to compensate instructors, particularly because of the need to go outside of the Craft for professional educational experiences. It was generally agreed that while we might be able to 'lure' folks to do course preparation based on their personal ideals, it was also recognized that there are many costs involved for the presenter. This will be further discussed at our next

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meeting but the general consensus this time was that any instructor – Mason or not – should receive a nominal honorarium.

We also discussed the need to finally get our ‘Friends of the College’ program into gear and all present agreed to think about those who might be willing to assume officer positions in this organization. Some agreed that having a spouse of a Regent could be particularly valuable.

The next meeting will be on November 19, 2006 at a place to be announced. The Regents then adjourned to lunch during which the details of the meeting to be held in Carmel were agreed upon. Ed will be responsible for food while Walter and Richard will share the responsibility for the evening’s focus.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College

Post Script:

On the evening of October 25, 2006, the meeting with some of our newer Masons in the Bangor area was held at the lodge in Carmel. Thanks are extended to Regent David Richardson who, despite a horrendous cold, dealt with the opening and closing of the building and saw to our every need. There were a total 12 present: 5 Regents and 8 newer Masons. (It is noted that one of our Regents, Bro. Don MacDougall, falls into the category of ‘newer Mason’, much to the surprise of three of the Regents there!) Among the non-Regents, there were four members of St. Andrew’s Lodge in Bangor (Old Town), one from Piscataquis in Milo, one from Ralph J. Pollard in Orrington, and one from Benevolent Lodge where we were meeting.

While Bro. Walter Macdougall will provide a more detailed report on this activity, your Secretary felt that it was EXTREMELY worthwhile. Our newer members are eager for learning, particularly the type of interactive round-table programs that were once a part of every lodge’s activities but no longer seem to be held. It was recognized that they all have busy lives which may well be interfering with their attendance but the biggest problem seemed to be that of lack of information about courses. There was also a strong interest in such activities as ‘field trips’ where Masonic history might be studied in ‘real time’. (A bus trip was suggested....).

The evening was designed to be very loosely directed and a series of questions that had been created by Bros. Walter Macdougall and Bowden were requested by the participants at the very start. They wanted to know what the route looked like before they started on it! This worked well, however, because despite MANY side-roads (including some history lessons by the Secretary), they came away stating that they had very much enjoyed the evening and asked that we hold more like it.

The direct consequence was that two of those attending signed up that evening for Walter’s course two weeks hence with one bringing his fiancée as well.

Those who were present felt, I believe, much energized by this meeting and if even half of our newer initiates are of this caliber, our fraternity is in good hands moving forward. We must, however, give them the education they are so eagerly seeking!