



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

November 19, 2006

The Chairman of the Board of Regents of the Maine Masonic College called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM at Governor's Restaurant in Waterville. Present were Bros. King, Kuntz, Landry, G. Macdougall, W. Macdougall, D. McDougal, Nichols, Plummer, Richardson, and Wing along with Bro. A. James Ross. The Chairman introduced Jim although certainly no introduction was necessary as Jim seems to be nearly everywhere. Jim is currently Grand Marshall and Editor of the Maine Mason Magazine.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were approved as distributed. A Treasurer's report was presented by Bro. Kuntz and it was approved as presented. He also noted the issues surrounding interactions with the Grand Treasurer who will be present at the conclusion of the meeting to meet with the officers.

The Chairman read a message from Bro. Bob Stratton resigning from the Board. It was accepted with regret. It was then moved, seconded and passed that Bro. Claire Tusch be invited to become a Regent and the Chairman was instructed to communicate with him about this.

The round-table meeting in Carmel was next on the agenda and Walter presented a report on the outcome. Additional commentary was added by the Regents who were present at that meeting and all agreed that this was an extremely productive endeavor. It was suggested that we set up similar round-table discussion opportunities at various venues throughout the state and this was supported enthusiastically. It was recommended that we devote a full Regents' meeting to establishing the agenda for these programs. No action was taken on this suggestion. Various contacts are moving toward various arrangements (including Jim Ross looking for a location in the South and Patrick Whitney potentially making arrangements in his area) but there's no expected outcome or planning coordination of these events at this time.

Concurrently, the issue was raised of potentially putting women in an uncomfortable position when we exclude them during open presentations (i.e., 'keying onto' Masonic connections). No decision/resolution on this was reached. Also arising from the round-table was interest in an educational trip whereby the connections of things with Freemasonry might be more fully explored. At the meeting, this concept was greeted enthusiastically. Accordingly, the Seminar Committee will explore the potential further. A weekend 'immersion' course as part of a trip to Boston (perhaps later, Washington, DC) seemed quite possible.

This led to discussion of the College possibly hosting some type of 'Northeast Conference on Masonic Education'. As the activity with that name was apparently abandoned years ago and with the rising interest in institutionalized education activities such as ours, the time might be ripe for such an activity.

Discussion then moved to the need for a deadline on proceeding with a course or cancelling due to low attendance. It was ultimately agreed that this will be left to the discretion of the Instructor in close contact with the Registrar. It was noted that we should at least have enough to cover costs though it was recognized that there might be costs even if a program is cancelled.

We then moved to a discussion of a "Friends of the College" program again. We have been using the term "Friends" in two distinctly separate contexts. The first is the 'Friends' program discussed and approved months ago whereby an annual payment provided a series of membership-like benefits to the 'Friend'. The second is more of an Ambassador-type program but as the word 'Ambassador' has been essentially circumscribed for the Scottish Rite Ambassador Training Program, that descriptor is unworkable. It was emphasized by the Secretary that these descriptors must be clarified at the earliest possible moment to permit his retention of the small remaining part of his sanity. This was done in the vote described below.

Maine Masonic College – Board of Regents Minutes

Charlie reminded us of the Senior College Program model and it was suggested that a benefit to such a program could be advanced notice and guaranteed reservation. It was emphasized that we should not recruit a group of people first and then be telling them what to do.

It was decided that we recruit and acknowledge those who can further expand the vision of the Maine Masonic College. They will know the College, know the Programs and Spread the Word! It was moved, seconded and passed that Jim Ross and other such persons be designated as **STAFF MEMBERS** to publicize the College and the Secretary will add Jim and others to the mailings of the College as a result of such designation. (Secretary's note: The Chairman and any others sending group mailings such as agendas etc. must do the same or we won't be holding up our end of the bargain!)

Don discussed progress by the Curriculum Committee and discussed the potential contents of the course on geometry. This led, invariably, to a further discussion of the need for an honorarium as discussed at the preceding meeting. At that time, it was felt that a \$300 payment was appropriate. However, upon revisiting the issue today, some felt that this amount should be lower and that we will be able to enlist non-Masonic teachers regardless of whether an honorarium is paid or not. It was moved by Charlie Plummer and seconded that instructors be given a \$50 honorarium regardless of course length or Masonic status.

Walter indicated that this week he would be contacting folks at the University of Maine in Orono about doing some of our courses in the upcoming months.

The next meeting date was then set for December 17, 2006 and the meeting was closed at 12:10PM.

Following the close of the meeting, the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary met with the Grand Treasurer over lunch while the remaining Regents dined together. Bro. McKinney was emphatic about the requirements to have details of every activity of the College including registration lists etc. Our having a Treasurer notwithstanding, he was intransigent in his demands and stated "Unless I get these, I will close your account on Tuesday morning!" When asked if the Trustees of the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation who meet quarterly really needed a monthly detailed accounting of the minutiae of the College's activities, he responded "You'd be surprised at what they care about." In addition, he presented the Treasurer with a bill for \$351 for legal services in conjunction with a question raised by the IRS. Apparently the Grand Treasurer books all items directly to the underlying funds recipient rather than to the overall Foundation operations thereby lessening the awards to the recipients.

This meeting ended at 1:45pm and the Grand Treasurer departed. As nearly all of the Regents were still present in the room at the conclusion of this meeting, the Chairman reconvened the Board to discuss the outcome. There was considerable discord and anger about the seemingly inappropriate management being exerted and after threats of resignation en masse and closure of the College, it was agreed that the Regents must involve the Grand Master. Accordingly, a group consisting of Bros. Walter Macdougall, Eric Kuntz and Ed King were dispatched to his house to bring this to his attention prior to the threatened closing of the account on Tuesday. The after-meeting meeting ended in frustration, anger and resolve at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College

Post Script: The three ~~ruffians then traveled a course due~~ representatives found the Grand Master had still not returned home from Maryland but contact was made with him within 24 hours. He met with the Grand Treasurer on Tuesday, ameliorating the immediate problem. Meanwhile, Eric met with Ed and Walter and agreed to provide every bit of material the Grand Treasurer feels he needs to have in his hands personally. Subsequently, however, the Grand Master has rethought the entire relationship of the College with the Foundation and has directed that it be changed. This will be explained at our 12/17 meeting.