



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

December 17, 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 with Bros. Bowden, King, Kuntz, Landry, G. Macdougall, W. Macdougall, D. McDougal, Nichols, Plummer, Richardson, Tusch, and Wing. Bro A. James Ross is recuperating from the flu. A word of prayer was offered by Bro. Plummer.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were approved as distributed with the addition of Bro. Plummer as an attendee. The Treasurer's report was distributed and a lengthy discussion of the College's relationship to Grand Lodge then ensued. The Regents were unanimous in thanking the Grand Master for his efforts on our behalf and it was agreed that a message of thanks should be sent to him. Bro. Don McDougall also noted that we should be sure to thank all those who assist the College in its endeavors. The discussion relative to College status, though, left several Regents feeling that the most recent change might present personal liability issues that they were unwilling to assume. Bro. Plummer expressed strong feelings that the College cannot be separate from Grand Lodge and that we need a written statement from them as to the relationship that exists. Some Regents felt that a relationship similar to that of the Maine Lodge of Research was the most desirable and Bro. Tusch, Grand Master at the time the College was formed, noted that the College had a Charter that essentially placed them in that status. Bro. Bowden moved that we obtain "something in writing" <unspecified by whom> and this was seconded by Bro. Wing. In discussion it was stated that that this "...can't be based on somebody's opinion." Bro. Kuntz moved to amend that the vote be to "Get something in writing from insurance (as an additional insured)." This was agreed to by the proposer and seconder and, after some additional discussion, the motion passed. The Chairman indicated he would speak with MW Wayne Adams about potential legal issues arising because of our providing classes open to the public and will also speak with the Hartford Agency about insurance. He will then speak with the Grand Master to hopefully put the matter to rest once and for all.

Discussion then moved to College activity in process. Ed had previously distributed brochures with schedules as enclosures and these were reviewed. The plan is to mail these to DDs, DERs, and GL officers right after Christmas. Walter mentioned that he would be going to UMaine next week to talk with potential instructors for our basic course programs. The New Mason Round-Table meetings were discussed again. The report is the same as it was last month (i.e., Jim Ross looking to set up something in the South and Patrick Whitney doing something in the North.)

It was suggested that a newsletter was needed for those who had taken part so they would know their attendance had not been in vain. Ed suggested that arrangements could/should be made to also send some information on the College to new Masons AND to emphasize to DDs/DERs that they should make a special effort to let new members know of the College.

Discussion then moved to the often identical titles we have given different groups of people with ties to the College. Specifically, the "Friends" program has been co-opted for use with the planned use of 'public relations supporters' causing much confusion. It was agreed that these supporters will henceforth be deemed STAFF. Bro. Plummer moved that the "Friends" program previously approved by the Regents be changed to "MEMBERS" of the Maine Masonic College. Seconded and Passed. Some additional discussion on College supporters followed with Bro. Plummer recommending that we consider one free course for those who work for us. It was agreed to postpone action on this to a later date.

Bro. Ross had provided a list of names of those who might become 'Friends' of the College. There was disagreement on what to do about these names not knowing if they had been asked to help already. Bro. King noted that only one had attended a course and wouldn't be in a place to be speaking forcefully about the

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benefits of our programs until they had. Others disagreed and it was decided to postpone further action on this until the next meeting.

Upcoming courses were reviewed in detail. Bros. Plummer and Kuntz both offered new courses for the Fall. Bro. Wing will do his (2nd) course which had been cancelled due to a date conflict.

A brief ‘stretch break’ occurred following which the Regents welcomed Bro. Tim Martel, Chairman of the MEALS (Masonic Education and Lodge Service) Committee to our meeting. Bro. Bowden, a member of MEALS and a Regent, began by discussing ‘use’ of the District Education Representatives via MEALS. Tim noted that many DERs are seeking out ways to help and that while some are only ‘marking time’ while expecting advancement to District Deputy, others truly want to be effective in their positions. Some, in fact, have no desire to become a DD giving rise to a discussion of an “education specialist” position to move the agenda for education forward. Richard noted that there’s a major shift from the education role of DER to that of management as DD – and that one can’t be adequately doing the education function if they’re simultaneously worrying about the ‘in training’ issues of a DD’s responsibilities. Having a District Education Specialist would allow that person to serve a longer term and would enable the College & MEALS to fully mentor them in how to effectively teach. The Grand Master is considering the issue’s ramifications. It was suggested that we work closely with MEALS on this and Charlie/Bob agreed to assume this responsibility. (They’ll meet on 2/8 at the Abanaki Club in Augusta at 6:30pm.)

Bro. Tusch commented on the positive impact the College was having around the world and passed around a copy of the UK magazine Freemasonry Today with an article about our endeavors.

The next meeting was then scheduled for 1/21/07, tentatively at Waterville.

A round of applause was also given for Anne McDougall and her extraordinary muffins that have been enjoyed WARM at several meetings.

Because of installation commitments, some departed at 11:30am with the remaining members enjoying lunch and topical conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College