



# Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

*January 19, 2007*

The Board of Regents met on a chilly Sunday morning at Governor's Restaurant in Waterville with Bros. Richard Bowden, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, Robert Landry, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, Donald McDougal, Stephen Nichols, Charles Plummer, David Richardson, and A. James Ross present. Bro. Reggie Wing was excused as he was attending a planning meeting for his 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion (*25 years in advance, Reggie?*) but had sent along a note for the Board. Tim Martel, MEALS Chair, joined us at 10am.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were approved as distributed. The Treasurer presented a report of cash on hand of \$588.93 explaining the closing of one account and opening of another as previously discussed at length. This report was also accepted. There was a brief discussion of the fund raising issues which had lead directly to the agenda item of 'How we are associated with Grand Lodge.'

The College's Charter was read aloud and discussion then began as to 'what we are' and 'what we ought to be'. Again, the development history and rationale for actions taken, including the initial concerns about academic autonomy were reviewed while the Grand Lodge Constitution and Standing Regulations were consulted. PGM Wayne Adams some written thoughts which helped focus the discussion, particularly in regards to the term 'Masonic' as part of our name and mission. It was then moved and seconded that "The Maine Masonic College become a part of Grand Lodge and that we draft appropriate legislation to ensure that happens." During discussion, the concept of coming under the MEALS Committee and a variety of other options were offered as options. Ultimately, the motion was amended to read:

**"That the Maine Masonic College become a part of Grand Lodge and that we draft an appropriate motion to make us that via an amendment to the Standing Regulation."** Motion PASSED.

It was suggested that we again impose upon Bro. Adams for assistance in framing the language for this and that we also should be discussing our unique activities with the Insurance Committee. Walter offered comments about the creation of this new type of entity previously totally unanticipated but also observed that the Jurisprudence Committee in reviewing the actions of MW Tusch had made no note of his taking this action, thus by extension his taking that step, not allowed but not prohibited by the Constitution did not seem inappropriate to them. Ed noted that the Grand Master had previously expressed the opinion that the College should be separate and that his support must be obtained in the first instance. George agreed to contact the GM immediately and also ask that he ratify the Charter for his term. George will also contact Wayne and Charlie offered to contact the Brother in New York for some details as to how their University has been addressing financial and legislative issues.

The status of the bus trip was questioned and Ed reported that there seemed precious little time to bring this together for an April date, particularly with hotels fairly well booked at this point not having sufficient rooms to handle a busload. Accordingly, it was decided that we will look at the dates of September 14-16.

Bob noted that there is an Insurance Committee meeting tomorrow in Augusta and Steve and/or George will attend to bring them our concerns about liability with the public attending courses. There was wondering aloud whether actions like limiting our advertising to 'guests' (as opposed to being a public accommodation) and asking for 'donations' (compared to a charge) might be helpful.

Walter then presented the results of his efforts on core curriculum development through UMO:

1. He'd met with Evelyn Bower addressing issues of adult education. He felt that the MEALS Committee might find it very useful to use her as a trainer for the District Education Representatives.

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2. He'd met with John Sherblum, the Department Head of the Speech Department and discussed the need for public speaking training. This too might be something used by MEALS. Tim agreed.
3. He had spoken with Alan Davenport at the planetarium about a course in astronomy.
4. There's also an ability to do some courses via their interactive network.

Walter asked for guidance on payment for services by these individuals. It was noted that we had voted at a previous meeting to have a \$50 gratuity limit. Bro. Plummer who had originally made that motion stated that he should have considered there would be exceptions and that we should be able to make those on a case-by-case basis, particularly when course content is developed to our specifications.

Discussion on new/old course progress then ensued. Due to a change of a Degree date, Ed's course may push to a later date (preferred – Bob will check), the course title on Charlie's April course was changed, the Masonic Music course will drop pending identification of a different instructor but a new option involving music/architecture will be pursued by Eric, Reggie's September course may need to move if we push ahead with the bus trip, and George will ensure we're ok for the March 10<sup>th</sup> date with Governors. (He'll also check about ordering off the menu and if we can, we'll drop the price.) Ed explained his discussion with Alan Davenport at the Planetarium and it was agreed that we'll book a 'canned' course there, using it to decide what we need/want in a specialized course later. Walter will get the book and course proposal from Alan Heath and it was agreed that this really is a requirement that should not and will not be waived at any time.

Additional College equipment was discussed. It was agreed that there are several overhead projectors available and it was not necessary to purchase one at this time. Getting an easel pad was debated and it was finally agreed that we should ask for funds to permit the purchase of one that offers both dry marker and paper options. The Registrar noted that paper and ink had been purchased out of necessity and he'd need reimbursement for that also.

Charlie Plummer then distributed course scope proposals for three more courses. Each was reviewed, questioned and approved. Dates will be determined based on further discussion as to their use by the MEALS Committee. Mention was made of the various course titles we've been using and whether they were appropriate to induce interest and as discussion moved forward, Ed quickly exhibited his NRA Range Safety Officer patch screaming 'Cease Fire'. Charlie said that if his titles were changed, he was not interested in doing them and elaborated on his feelings about the continuing decrease of educational levels in society. He emphasized that we should not lower our own standards to address 'popular appeal' while other Regents noted the need to 'catch one's interest' in a short time if we are to attract attendees.

Discussion then moved to gaining supporters for the College. Jim Ross has prepared a letter he proposed to send to those he had suggested be our 'Representatives'. He was given encouragement to proceed.

It was announced that there will be another Roundtable-type meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at Harwood Lodge in Machias. Dave Richardson will take the lead in this.

The next meeting was set for February 25<sup>th</sup> presumably at the same location.

MMC topics concluded at approximately 1:00pm and the floor was given to the DGM who wanted to discuss an unrelated matter. At approximately 1:20pm this discussion concluded and the meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted,

**Edward L. King**

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College