



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

March 25, 2007

The Board of Regents convened for its first meeting of the Spring at Governor's Restaurant in Waterville. Although not commented on at this meeting, it was the second anniversary of the formal existence of the Maine Masonic College, our first meeting as a Board of Regents having occurred on March 19, 2005. We have come so far and yet, we are still at the beginning of this exciting odyssey. It is important to note that we are the ONLY known group in the world that is simultaneously part of a Grand Lodge but deliberately creating and providing broad, public-oriented educational programs open to and consistently shared with our communities.

Present at this meeting were Wayne Adams, Richard Bowden, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, Robert Landry, Walter Macdougall, Donald McDougal, Stephen Nichols, Charles Plummer, Claire Tusch, Reginald Wing and Regent Chair George Macdougall who called the meeting to order at 9:04am. Once again, Don had arrived with those scrumptious warm muffins for which we are all grateful (in some cases, doubly or trebly grateful!).

It was moved, seconded and passed that the minutes of the January 19th and February 25th meetings be accepted as distributed. The Treasurer's report was distributed and discussion ensued about the need for advanced funding of our Charitable Fund allowance when our programs warranted it (i.e., public programs). The Chairman will make a request to the Grand Master for this.

Bro. Walter Macdougall reported that he had spoken extensively with Walter Kyllonen, the Chairman of the Grand Lodge insurance committee. The new policy that is being written for Grand Lodge and is due for a vote at the May Annual Communication has the Maine Masonic College as a named insured and will cover our activities in providing publically-accessible programs. This appears to resolve the major outstanding concern from the inception of the College and the Regents look forward to its approval at Grand Lodge. In addition, he circulated a letter he had received in response to his to the Illustrious Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Bro. Plummer reported on the results of his inquiry to New York as to their setup for the Masonic University of New York (MUNY). It is reported that they are under the Grand Lodge of New York as a Committee responsible for ALL MASONIC education. It was opined that this was more like our MEALS Committee than what the Maine Masonic College is doing. Charlie suggested that an exploratory committee be created to discuss the concept of integrated programs and suggested we have this as a future agenda item.

Bro. Wayne Adams was then asked to speak about bringing the MMC fully into the Grand Lodge fold by being made a Standing Committee of the Grand Lodge. Much discussion about insurance coverage, appointment of Regents, funding, etc. occurred. After discussion, it was agreed that a proposal will be put forth at Grand Lodge using language drafted by Wayne clarifying the MMC's position in the overall scheme of things.

Two action items:

- George will call Wally Kyllonen to be sure that the insurance coverage is for PUBLIC and not just SEMI-PUBLIC (i.e., open 'by invitation' and not as an 'announced program).
- Richard Bowden will prepare the appropriate forms for updating our By-Laws.

The Chairman noted that China Lodge had extended an invitation for us to hold our Regents' meetings there and after discussion it was moved, seconded and passed to try this for our next meeting. (Cr. Rt 9 & 202).

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There then followed discussion of old and new course progress. Ed elaborated on the need for prior planning and there was a very long discussion on how to prevent a ‘course gone wrong’. From this discussion came the motion that we create a Committee which would be tasked with getting new programs and instructors. Claire and Steve volunteered to serve. Once identified, the information will go to the Curriculum Committee (Don, Walter & Charlie) who will ensure that the person has the instructor’s guide material, understands MMC expectations, and is capable of presenting a complete course of the highest standards. Walter elaborated indicating that there were four things to be addressed: the future view of courses; the integrity of courses; helpers for people who need it; and logistics. Additional discussion ensued and ultimately it was moved, seconded and passed that the prior motion be rescinded.

Walter reported that the program just concluded on Public Speaking was truly extraordinary. The speaker was a 24 year old graduate student at UMO and did an excellent job relating to his audience. Unfortunately he is leaving the state shortly but it is expected that our involvement with the University will continue to prove fruitful for our endeavors.

Ed explained the situation which arose at the “Masonically Speaking” program and negotiations he had with Alan and Tom Heath as to making the handout book more accessible. Ed and Eric had volunteered to act as proofreaders upon receipt of an electronic copy of the work but had not received it as yet. Richard had taken a paper copy and had reviewed it noting the absence of source material, bibliography and footnotes as well as its use of the Grand Lodge of Maine seal. Immediately following the meeting he was going to write to Alan Heath with his comments. After some discussion regarding logistics, imprimatur, storage, financing and more, it was agreed that we as a College should not be involved in the selling of books.* Should the Heaths wish to further distribute their work, the College should not be involved. Ed will be responsible for providing the # of copies to them and will send them to the course participants as soon as possible with a note indicating that we are doing this on behalf of the speaker. It is noted that this additional, unexpected cost will reduce course profit considerably.

As lunch was consumed, the course schedule was discussed at length and it was agreed that at our next meeting we will finalize offerings and dates for the ensuing academic year.

The next meeting was set for April 15, 2007 – China Lodge, China, Maine if possible.

Richard Bowden then presented a report on the trip to Machias to meet with new Masons. Walter added his thoughts and examples.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College

*At the outset it was felt that selling books would be a way of encouraging further learning. However, with College remaining part of Grand Lodge, the originally conceived idea would meet with the problems of pricing. Further, storage and transportation were also issues and for these several reasons, this decision applies to ALL book sales, not just the book related to this particular course.