



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

August 26, 2007

The Board of Regents met at Central lodge #45 in China, Maine with the following present: Richard Bowden, Edward King, Kern Kelly, Robert Landry, Walter Macdougall, Donald McDougal, Charles Plummer, A. James Ross, Reginald Wing and Stephen Nichols in the cat-bird seat as Chairman.

The meeting opened at exactly 9:00 am and the minutes of the preceding meeting were reviewed with two errors noted. Because Bro. Kuntz was in New York due to a family funeral, there was no Treasurer's report. We reviewed the 'great shirt purchase debacle' and Ed was let off the hook with the promise to do better the next time around – or else! The Chairman raised the question of whether the College should be creating a budget at this point and opinions were mixed. Ostensibly, the cost of courses should be sufficient to cover expenses but when attendance is low, this may not occur. There was a general consensus that we should develop a budget at some point but perhaps not until we have another year of experience from which to judge. It was clarified that our 'fiscal year' is from May 1st to April 30th.

We then moved to discussion of how to better advertise what the MMC has to offer. We also discussed the conceptual ideas of how to best 'distribute' knowledge (push versus pull ~ courses at/during lodge and other meetings versus the current methodology). This evolved into a larger discussion of the role/responsibility of an individual Mason to achieve greater inner development. We tell new Masons that there's "more light" but we're simply not giving it to them.

After a short break, the meeting resumed with comments regarding the recently held Masonic Educational Summit. Those Regents who attended (8 of us!) agreed that most presenters were out-of-synch with the expectations of the Grand Master and that the meeting did not accomplish its desired goals. This led to further discussion to increase attendance and why there's seeming lethargy now. Steve talked about ethics and Ed added some imponderables to the mix.

Walter attempted to synthesize by likening what we're seeing as part of an overall societal problem, defined as a vast, moving flood of a 'return to ignorance' worldwide. He posited that Freemasons are no different and that so often we are locked into pedantic efforts to climb ladders within our own organizations that we're not looking at the 'internal spirit'. He encouraged us all to look for young men who are struggling and observed that what the College is doing is foreign to what Freemasonry normally does. He felt that we needed to be fostering discussion groups in a caring and 'safe' environment. Kern noted the outcome of his school district's experiment over the past few weeks with an online ethics course and spoke of Masons he knew needing this type of venue but not knowing they needed it. Jim and Steve shared their experiences with a program where they'd simply asked "What does Masonry mean to you?" and "Why are you a Mason?" It was felt that there was potential for this during the next month in the 5th District but the bigger question of how such soul-searching experiences REALLY relate to the College agenda was not addressed.

The Chairman signaled the return to more pedestrian matters so we could complete remaining agenda items. The next meeting date was set at September 30th. Reggie talked about the changes he has made to his book and provided each Regent with a copy with Ed receiving a CD version should some subsequent decision be made to publish this. Ed also provided copies of Kern's PowerPoint presentation of the lectures for those who wanted them. Steve noted that he has heard nothing further from Alan Heath regarding the promised book/CD but will continue to follow-up on this. Ed also encouraged Regents to purchase and read "*The Rosslyn Hoax*" by Robert Cooper, the Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. He noted how the book debunks everything that has been written about the Templars and the Grail over the past 20 years using factual and footnoted information.

Maine Masonic College – Board of Regents Minutes

We then had a bit of discussion about overlapping objectives between the several groups offering education within the jurisdiction. We then moved to a metaphysical discussion of four star generals and what a person's face looked like before their parents were born, perhaps proving the mental exhaustion we were experiencing.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55am after which attendees enjoyed submarine sandwiches and Governor's whoopee pies (over which there was some considerable whoopee!).

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College