



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

December 2, 2007

The Board of Regents again met at Central lodge #45 in China, Maine with the following present: Richard Bowden, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, Robert Landry, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, Don McDougal, David Richardson, Reggie Wing and with Stephen Nichols presiding. Once again, a snack from Don turned Regents from conversationalists to carnivores. The meeting began promptly at 9:00am – honestly! Some Regents had brought various books on current topics per the agreement at the last meeting but these were not specifically discussed during this day.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were reviewed and although the Chairman tried to prevent the gratuitous comments about Navy superiority over Army, he was voted down, even by the Air Force guy! The Treasurer's report was presented and accepted. Because of the recent situation in Portland involving fraud, Don suggested that we too should probably have an Audit Committee to oversee finances and all agreed. David and Bob were appointed to fulfill this role.

Steve spoke about yet another epiphany he'd had while driving to the meeting (Note to self: there's a trend here. Sit at other end of table just in case!) There then began a vigorous discussion on new approaches to what we're doing. How can we make the Brethren HUNGRY for learning? We need to push forward in the interests of the Brethren. Perhaps having channeled Steve's epiphany, Walter and Don were prepared with a list of suggestions which were as follows:

1. A Publication: Brief, provocative essay PLUS being a broker of information (such as recommending the 'Democracy in Athens' program on PBS);
2. Develop a Handbook: what the College can do;
3. Insignia on clothing;
4. Develop an electronic library;
5. Start groups who want to watch stuff and have discussion groups about the material;
6. Greater outreach!

Reggie noted that we should not be too quick to blame ourselves as we were not involved with or responsible for the preparation of candidates (who are seemingly not as interested in educating themselves as they should be). Walter opined that we are "Living in the hedgerow of our past wreckage."

Don spoke about the Handbook and what it could include.

Then, without warning, Ed morphed into a whirling dervish to talk about the idea of the College creating videos. He explained how this could occur, the costs (a handout showing projected expenses was passed out), and the potential for the future. Over the next few minutes, he laid out the concept, explained how work could be divided up, and outlined the numerous positive outcomes. Initial hesitancy gave way to acceptance as Regents realized how much professional education today is distributed in this manner and how it can exponentially increase our reach at

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times and places far from those earlier anticipated. He also noted that the very things mentioned at the last meeting, to wit:

There were a number of items that were felt necessary/appropriate but that these were things that others could benefit from as well and that even the public can/should welcome. The topics included:

- *Popular literature (beliefs, perceptions, books, etc.)*
- *How to network*
- *How to speak in public*
- *How to get along*
- *Generational differences*

And noted that these would be PERFECT for video presentation by Regents and others. Reggie recommended that we continue this discussion at the next meeting.

Steve noted the upcoming Educational Summit in Brunswick on Tuesday, December 4th at 6 PM. The next meeting date was set for January 27, 2008, same time and place.

David talked about Light in Masonry and that discussion moved to some thoughts on pushing the boulder ahead, noting that we are nowhere near as far as we'd like. However, as Walter again sagely noted, if this was easy, it would have been done long ago.

Due to the departure of George and Walter, we took a five minute exhaustion break. Returning to work, Bob talked about the Ambassador program and noted that it seems to be functioning now, by doing 'recruiting' at Colleges, apparently successfully.

We then returned back to the discussion begun earlier by David on how we can provide More Light in Freemasonry. How is this defined? How do we share ours? What do others want?

It was noted that Freemasonry is a journey of the mind. Can it be condescending as some have joined NOT because of this? There can be no growth if you're alone – but you also need time for reflection....

We then closed the meeting at approximately 12:10 and proceeded to lunch where the conversation continued as before. Ed became messianic about the DVD program once again and, perhaps just to shut him up, it was decided to authorize him to proceed without waiting two months until our next meeting. Don noted that in just a week Walter would be doing his talk on the moral high ground at the District Meeting in Milo and that if the equipment were received before then, we could film that for our first project. In addition, Ed talked about the long-promised class on current topics affecting Freemasonry (i.e., Dan Brown's book, the new National Treasure II, etc.) and suggested that THIS would be the way to move that project forward. He came prepared with a broad outline of possible topics and Regents agreed to take on various pieces of it with scripts ready for review at our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College