



## Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

January 27, 2008

The Board of Regents met at Central lodge #45 in China, Maine with the following present: Richard Bowden, Edward King, Robert Landry, George Macdougall, Don McDougal, David Richardson, Reggie Wing and with Stephen Nichols presiding. Don arrived with blueberry muffins which were, as always, greatly appreciated. The heating system appeared to have malfunctioned in the lodge overnight and temperatures throughout the meeting remained below 60<sup>0</sup>. The meeting began at 9:05am. During the review of the minutes, the Chairman indicated that he'd had no epiphany on his way to the meeting this morning thus depriving us of a starting point for discussions. The minutes were accepted without correction.

Bob Landry asked to speak and he told the Regents about his trip to the Grand Lodge of Washington, DC, emphasizing the universality of Freemasonry he saw exhibited there. He was quite impressed with the scope of it all.

The DVD of Walter's presentation on 'The Moral High Ground' in Milo in December and a short 'proof of concept' clip about the websites of the Grand Lodge of Maine was reviewed as Regents squinted over Ed's shoulder at his laptop. Forgetting his Boy Scout training, Ed had not come prepared with the electrical cord and the battery soon died. Nevertheless, the basics were seen and all agreed that this mode could likely work if we can find the 'magic key' to both content and distribution. There was a discussion that at this time and in light of the economic situation we face (including such high gas prices) that a more localized (perhaps at-home) presentation concept would appeal to more people.

Ed noted that he had purchased additional ink and paper for our copier in anticipation of the distribution of the brochure and other material at Grand Lodge and to take advantage of a free-shipping/lower price offer by Xerox prior to year-end. After discussion, it was voted that the Secretary be continuously authorized to buy supplies as needed without the necessity for prior vote.

This then turned to the cost of DVD production and distribution – and specifically, how both the 'High Ground' and all other videos were going to be distributed. The debate involved a wide range of ideas (giving them to the DDs and DERs to play at meetings, send out to lodges and get back with comments, mailing from GL, etc.) Because the ideas were primarily off-the-cuff, it was ultimately agreed all Regents should think about this issue prior to our next meeting, including the concepts of target market (i.e., to whom are/should be videos oriented), delivery (mass mailings, selected distribution, facilitators, etc.) and cost (recognizing that items strictly for our own membership are not eligible for funding by the Charitable Foundation). This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. And we must specifically resolve how to distribute Walter's DVD as well as one later planned for Eric's course – despite Eric's absence!.

George suggested that Steve do his Annual Report in a video format and Ed noted that a DVD could easily hold both a 'primary' topic (course, lecture, whatever) and one or more secondary,

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shorter items (annual report, explanation of websites, etc.) as a way of optimizing the medium. This led to our evaluation of the programs in the pipeline for the first months of this year. It was agreed that we would cancel the three programs now in their tentative stages in favor of more effort in the realm of video production.

Consequently it was agreed that we would create and produce the following three videos prior to Grand Lodge in May and have them available then (with distribution to be determined):

1. Walter's presentation of "Freemasonry and the Moral High Ground"
2. Eric's course which would be a 30-45 minute presentation in the form of <presentation> <break for discussion> <presentation>.
3. MMC Annual Report with Steve Nichols

Ed noted that this takes a village to make happen and Richard Bowden was seduced into becoming our videographer at the outset of this process.

We then moved to discussion of meeting locations and it was decided that we would change to Newport for our March and subsequent meetings.

With the hall becoming rapidly colder and later weather conditions questionable, we adjourned the meeting at 11:50, rapidly ate, and headed home.

Respectfully submitted,

*Edward L. King*

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College