



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

May 18, 2008

The Board of Regents met at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine with the following members present: Richard Bowden, Edward King, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, Don McDougal, and David Richardson, with Stephen Nichols presiding. The meeting opened at 9:05am after having fought the legions of black flies hovering in the parking lot. Ed made available copies of the reading list he'd compiled for the new/returning District Education Reps along with a copy of an article that had appeared this morning in the Los Angeles Times discussing the growing popularity in Freemasonry among younger men, many of whom do not fit the 'traditional' mode. The minutes of the preceding meeting were distributed and approved without correction.

Two recent losses were noted: at the start of our meeting we had a moment of silence to honor Jean Macdougall Dingley Horr, Walter's sister and at the close of the meeting, a moment of silence to honor Thelma P. Bowden, Richard's mother. Both ladies had recently passed. Our condolences were extended to our Brothers and their families on their loss.

Business of the day began with the reelection of our officer line to their present positions despite a number of potential candidates leaping over the table to be considered as well. (Actually, the low attendance perhaps was due to the fear of being 'shanghaied'....)

Ed then went off on two issues he felt needed attention:

Video filmmaking – He distributed a spreadsheet of what we've thought about and where we are. This was suggested as a working document to follow our progress from month to month. In it, he proposed that we recognize several different 'types' of videos which we can/should produce including **SUBJECT MATTER** (a course presentation on a particular topic – generally in the 45 minute range so as to be usable after lodge meetings, on 'off' nights, at officer training sessions, etc. by Masons as well as by members of the community in a variety of settings such as AARP luncheons, genealogical society get-togethers, or whatever), **VIGNETTES** (short – 6 mins or so – stories about our communities, Masons who made a difference, etc. which would be added on to various subject matter DVDs being sold. Perhaps Maine Lodge of Research could be induced to help with the preparation of script material for these), and **OTHER MATERIAL** (to include items for Grand Lodge and/or the MEALS Committee as desired). To this list, Regents suggested the addition of two additional categories: **COURSES** (to be full-length programs as if done in a classroom setting) and **SUBJECT MATTER** (where we will do a non-class presentation of 'what you should know' about a particular topic be it astronomy or public speaking). Ultimately a wide variety of topics could be covered in this way and perhaps even distributed through the Maine Library System as most topics would not be specific to Masons.

DVD distribution format changes – He reported on the astonishing results of the sale of our 'proof of concept' video, the presentation of Walter Macdougall in Piscataquis #44, speaking on the topic of 'The Moral High Ground'. His suggestions included a different packaging format moving forward as we produce our 'classroom' videos with a budget that would keep their price still at the \$3 (plus postage if mailing was requested). This change was enthusiastically endorsed.

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Steve then spoke about our College budget. We also again approached the matter of distribution of our DVDs to District Education Representatives and whether these should be just given to them for their use as they desire or whether we needed to have a Regent (or, perhaps, a Friend of the College) accompany them so as to provide guidance when questions occurred. We agreed to create 30 copies of our sole video and give them to the MEALS Committee for distribution to DERs but no decisions were made about how we'll handle this going forward. Also, since these will be regularly be on more general topics, a question arises as to whether these should be available free to Masonic Ambassadors also, enabling them to share with the community. The two sides of the argument in all of this is the low purchase cost (\$3) versus compared with the mission of the College to provide programs that will be of value to others beyond our own membership.

We also spent considerable time discussing what types of courses will work and what we believe won't work. We talked using the example of Christian Ratliff's progression on ritual development as but one example. Walter noted that a college's role is erudition: can this be something done, though, as a Symposium (where papers are submitted in advance) or Collegium? Should we/can we move forward towards something like this next summer, perhaps scrapping the concept of providing lodging etc.? We also approved the course Charlie Plummer has agreed to present sponsored by Marine Lodge #122 (Deer Isle). It was announced that the Maine Masonic College would be presenting a performance of Mozart's "The Magic Flute" at UMO in Orono on Saturday, September 27. Details to follows.

We then discussed terms of office and the problems which arose due to both the initial start of the College with all together and the subsequent change from 9 to 12 Regents. Ed had prepared a spreadsheet with the problem shown by individual and proposed that moving forward, each of the 12 Regents positions be identified by number. When a person becomes a Regent, they will fill the 'slot' with that number and moving forward, everyone will know where that slot is in the scheme of first/second terms and 1-3 years along the scale of those terms. It was not felt that this would require a by-laws change since each election/appointment would be to the numbered term rather than 'for the person'. Due to the lateness of the hour, it was agreed that we would at this meeting change Don's status to that of a 2nd year of a 2nd term (rather than the third year of a second term).

Our next meeting was set for Sunday, June 22nd. Same time and place. At 12:05 pm we adjourned to enjoy a delicious lunch. Sadly, your Secretary had a prior commitment and was forced to run out with only a delicious piece of garlic bread in hand. <SIGH>

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College