



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

June 22, 2008

The Board of Regents met at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine with only six Regents present: Edward King, Walter Macdougall, Don McDougal, John Nickerson, Claire Tusch, and Chairman Stephen Nichols presiding. The meeting opened at 9:05am after a demonstration of mechanical and spatial prowess by Brother McDougal, folding the College's green screen backdrop so that it would fit back into its carrying case. He received the undying appreciation of the King household where it had stood open in its 7'x 6' size for multiple months. "Just like a large chain saw blade..." was how Don described his technique. It was indeed impressive.

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been distributed via e-mail to the Regents, the Secretary verbally noted two changes he'd made subsequently and they were voted approved.

Terms of office, tabled at the last meeting, were then brought before the Board once again. It was voted that Jim Ross will fill the Regent seat emptied as our Grand Master already holds a seat ex-officio and John Nickerson will fill the vacancy left by Reggie Wing. Other changes re: terms of office etc. will be held in abeyance to our next meeting when a greater attendance is anticipated.

A brief discussion was held regarding sale and distribution of "The Moral High Ground". Ed will ensure that copies will be available at the next meeting so that those who wish to take some and sell them will be able to do so.

The issue of courses was, as always, a topic of high concern. This meeting we spent time discussing whether our programs should be oriented towards groups or individuals: should we orient presentations more for 'group viewing' or individual advancement? Several ideas were presented with no firm conclusions drawn. Cancelled courses from the past year were considered and it was felt that Reggie's program might be well-suited to a video on "Can a Christian be (become) a Mason?" There was also speculation about the potential for a video, also by Reggie, on religious tolerance/toleration which might appeal to our larger audience. Still further, an entire series was suggested on "How (X) looks at Freemasonry?" We philosophically agreed, particularly relative to the issue of religious things relating to some of our work that if all objections must be met, we will never accomplish anything. We must have sensitivity but cannot allow ourselves to be stopped just because someone somewhere might object.

We discussed two concurrent objectives:

- A. Become an information broker (something our website redesign is already moving to)
- B. Create small modules with tie-ins to the Craft so that there will be interest amongst Masons which will then translate to a wider interest in our work.

We also discussed using the Grand Lodge mailing list for 'getting the word out' when we were doing things. Ed noted that he had previously had carte blanche from Bro. Leighton to do just that and that he expected Grand Master Landry would be just as supportive.

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Bro. Walter Macdougall then spoke on some things he'd been thinking about including formal a News Release with posed photo could be created. It was hoped that at the next meeting all Regents could be present and dressed in coat/tie so an official photo can be taken. ***(Secretary Note: Because so few Regents were present when the date was set, it has already been determined that some will not be at the August meeting....)***

He also suggested that Charlie Plummer be asked to assume duties as the Dean of Classwork, helping people with instruction skills. He said Ed King should be named Director of Electronic Media and Dave Richardson and Jim Ross be asked to further develop the Friends program.

This led back to the course content discussion including a proposal to move our 'Popular Literature' program forward. He suggested that Richard and David might be tasked with developing training courses for Masonic Educators and we talked about Don's presentation on geometry.

It was agreed that the Maine Masonic College will support in any way possible the program being developed for the Maine Lodge of Research on Mozart.

Ed provided some background on the new organization, "The Masonic Society", and noted that there were also some internet fakes/frauds.

The Chairman will talk with Christian to tie down the loose ends relative to (a) a video which had been discussed earlier this year with Ed, Richard, and others and (b) another classroom course in Southern Maine in October.

The next meeting was set for Sunday, August 3rd. Same time and place. We've agreed with the lodge that if we don't have a minimum number of attendees, they will not be providing lunch so confirming your attendance (and whether or not you'll be staying for lunch) to the Chairman (this time – with some better system to be developed moving forward) so arrangements can be made.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:06pm and was followed by a delicious lunch and some great discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College