



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

September 7, 2008

The Board of Regents met at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine with the following Regents present: Richard Bowden, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, Gerald Leighton, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, John Nickerson, and Chairman Stephen Nichols. The meeting opened at 9:06am with our Chairman noting yet another epiphany, this one about the '10% factor' that we regularly observe in Freemasonry. This notwithstanding, he commented about how we had already beat the odds and could easily do far better in the future. On that positive note, the meeting began in earnest with a slight detour into computer technicalities. (See Tech Tip at the end.)

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been distributed via e-mail to the Regents, they were approved as distributed. The Treasurer gave his report and asked for approval to make payment to the Lodge for the current and past two meetings. The Regents expressed unanimous appreciation for the hospitality they've received but it was noted that surely the cost of providing the level of food service coupled with rising fuel costs for the hall warranted an increase in the amount we pay each month. It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to begin payment of \$75/meeting starting with this meeting. The Treasurer also asked for approval to move funds to a savings account and it was voted to give him the discretion to do so as he sees fit.

Walter, now officially the Dean of Academic Studies, then presented items for consideration:

1. Completion of the College Manual: using a draft of suggested sections, Regents agreed to take on responsibility for the sections as follows:
 - i. Aims & Mission Statement – Steve
 - ii. GM's Message / Chair's Message – Steve
 - iii. Types of Opportunities – Ed (writing about electronics)/Walter
 - iv. Offerings – Walter
 - v. Offerings – Walter & Eric
 - vi. Guidelines, Quality, etc. – Eric
 - vii. Recognition – Ed
 - viii. List of Instructors / Friends of the College – Steve
 - ix. Organization & Governance Information – Steve/Ed
2. Focus of programs:
 - a. It was emphasized again that we should attempt to structure our format around the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences.
 - b. We discussed other jurisdictions' programs and the air of malaise hanging over Freemasonry which affects so much. Conversely, we also agreed upon the 'venue of opportunity' and discussed allowing the malaise to dampen our thoughts versus trying everything, knowing that fruition will come in different ways.

The discussion above led to, again, some thoughts on the role Freemasonry can (should?) play in serving our fellow man. "What is the 'NEXT STEP' in Freemasonry?"

At the request of the Board at a prior meeting, the Instructor's Handbook was reviewed at length by Bro. Bowden. He noted that while all of the material had value, not all would be relevant to

someone presenting an MMC course and a substantial portion of it might be best presented at different times in different ways. He also noted copyright violation potential and the angst a beginning instructor might feel upon seeing such a weighty document. The Regents supported his observations. He was requested to revise this as he deemed appropriate with final approval by the Board. It was also agreed that the revised website should incorporate the references to material previously included as well as other teaching assistance, advice, and methodology sites as found. Having a binder for students to store notes in was discussed and Bro. King will follow-up.

The previously discussed Book Forum was raised by Bro. Kuntz with the question of what should Masons be reading. There were many opinions but few conclusions. Also discussed was whether we should encourage all or just 1-2 people to read a given book and then be able to discuss. Filtering versus time commitments were issues pondered. No conclusions reached.

Necessary administrative minutiae included a reminder that ALL Regents are important to our progress and that our by-laws call for removal if one misses 3 meetings without an excused absence. Distribution of DVDs to the MEALS Committee was questioned. Bro. King reminded Regents that at the last meeting he had given them to Bro. Don McDougall for delivery to the Committee. Bro. Nichols will check with Bro. Tim Martel so see how things are going.

The next meeting date was set for October 18, 2008, same time and place. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:10pm and was followed by some truly great corn chowder and garden-fresh tomatoes among other delights. There was discussion but for most it certainly took second place to the fantastic meal.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary (until you can find my replacement!), Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College

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*Note: As we progress on course development, specifically in regards to online materials, Regents should be aware that we have the capability of easily producing online quizzes etc. An example can be found at <http://www.mainemasoniccollege.com/quiz/qlmainesample.htm>*  
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TECH TIP:

The Secretary was asked to include in the minutes the process for **creating a new page** in a Word (style) document without the need for 'spacing down'. The process for most programs is to hold down the **<CTRL>** key (found on the bottom row on the far left) and tap the **<ENTER>** key. Some other key combinations that work across nearly all programs include the following:

Highlight an entire document without scrolling – Put your cursor anywhere, hold the **<CTRL>** key and tap the letter A.

Undo the immediate prior action - **<CTRL> Z** (This can be done up to 10 times generally to keep 'stepping back'.)

But if you want to redo something you just undid, simply press **<CTRL> Y**