



## Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

November 16, 2008

The Board of Regents met at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine prior to which there was group discussion about the state of affairs between the Grand Lodges of Washington DC and New York. At 9:06am the meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Nichols with the following Regents present: Richard Bowden, Kelley Carter, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, Gerald Leighton, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, and David Richardson.

It was very quickly moved, seconded and passed that the minutes of the preceding meeting be accepted as distributed, perhaps with the hopes that the Secretary would not include any further off-topic comments. The Treasurer gave a report of our financial status and then suggested that we discuss a budget for the ensuing year. There was general agreement that we would not apply for any funds for the immediate future. This, though, led to a discussion of education as part of a function of Freemasonry and a more far-reaching examination of how to reach more people. Kelley, Richard, and David emphasized personal contact and Walter stressed that we be sure we are working inclusively so as to ensure female participation. Jerry stressed the need to be positive while Eric added thoughts on grass-roots organizing and motivation.

There was discussion about the program on "Persuasive Speaking", noting that the Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce had publicized the program. It was commented that we need to have evaluation forms for each and every program. Walter will organize making contact with those who attended the speaking program to answer a limited number of identical questions.

Eric suggested a presentation that his colleague, Susan Wesley, would be able to do involving music therapy and it was agreed that we would sponsor a course by her.

This led to a spirited discussion about the need for upcoming courses. Jerry suggested that, for the time being, we concentrate on a particular area and attempt to permeate it, attracting in particular new Masons who might be encouraged in their Masonic efforts through our programs. He suggested that we obtain and mail a copy of the MSANA's new booklet 'Further Light' to a targeted group in the Newport area and that we set up several courses for them to attend. He has obtained from Tom Heath labels for some 440 newer members and the entire concept was enthusiastically endorsed. We then determined that we would hold courses as follows:

- January 24, 2009 (Saturday) - **Within These Walls: Influence of the "Built-Environment" on Therapeutic Music Interventions** - Susan B. Wesley, Ph.D., MT-BC - Newport - 9am-Noon
- February 21, 2009 (Saturday) - **Symbols: Who Needs Them?** - Eric Kuntz - Newport - 9am-3pm
- March 13, 2009 (Friday) - **Masonically Speaking** - Kelley Carter - Newport - 7-9pm
- April 4, 2009 (Saturday) - **Development of Masonic Ritual** - Christian Ratliff - Newport - 9am - 3pm
- April 25, 2009 (Saturday) - **Tenets of Freemasonry** - Reginald Wing - Newport

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Walter will confirm with Bros. Ratliff and Wing if these dates will work for them. Details for classes scheduled further out will be determined quickly and it was voted that we would use commit \$10/mo for an account at the website which was used by the Maine Lodge of Research for their registrations for the Mozart program they had held recently.

Ed showed members the embroidery proof obtained from a local embroidery company. He'll have prices and items for selection shortly.

Several other items were mentioned including:

- George has provided an article about architecture for The Entablature, Issue #2. Steve will write about our 'New Direction'. Other contributions were solicited.
- Walter spoke with Tim Martel who felt there should be a pin recognizing Masonic educators. This is at the preliminary stages;
- The search for a new Secretary continues;
- A Lodge Ambassadors program appears to be scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> but no one had any further information.

The next meeting was set for December 14<sup>th</sup> again at the Masonic Hall in Newport at 9am. The meeting was closed at 12:15pm and the Regents enjoyed continuing discussions over lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

*Edward L. King*

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