



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

February 1, 2009

This meeting was the 'snow date' from our January 18th meeting. During the time we would have been meeting on the 18th, a storm moved rapidly into Maine and finished about two feet later, allowing us to avoid the self-deprecation of being 'wimpy'. We met this fine morning at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine. Regents present included Bros. Richard Bowden, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, Gerald Leighton, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, Donald McDougall, David Richardson, A. James Ross, and Claire Tusch. Chairman Steve Nichols got us started promptly at 9am beginning with a review of the November minutes which the Secretary previously claimed he had lost. Now he says he can't find the December minutes. Will it ever end? In any event, November minutes were approved without correction.

The Treasurer gave a report of our financial status and noted that he would be moving some funds from our savings to checking. The Chairman will be submitting a request for funding to the Charitable Foundation presently.

The Dean of Academic Affairs, Bro. Walter Macdougall, then gave a comprehensive review of the many items 'on his plate' at the moment. He reported having spoken with Bro. Tim Martel who is thankfully 'up and about' now. Tim has requested that our working committee head south to meet with him closer to home about the mentoring program. Walter will make arrangements for this. Discussion then moved to the 'Friends' program with Jim Ross explaining who's expressed interest to date. It was suggested that a small group of Regents meet with these men who've expressed interest somewhere in their home areas for a meal – and to make sure they're on board and understand what we're doing. This was expected to involve several such small-group meetings so we're on their 'turf'. The discussion was lengthy and once more tried to identify the chicken/egg issues we so regularly encounter. There seemed to be a strong belief that **many** Masons were hungry for not only education but for 'something more' in their lives – but whether we should simply show them that we can help with some of that – or whether we need to be 'letting someone know they're hungry' was the debated issue.

There was a further, more far-ranging discussion of program management and scope as well as the connectivity of our program offerings. The general consensus was that at the moment there was little that couldn't be covered so 'the sky's the limit'.

We then moved to a more pragmatic issue: the evaluation marks for Dr. Wesley's course the prior Saturday. Dropping the mark for 'facility' (out of the speaker's control), her evaluations were the highest of any program we've ever offered. Eric noted that she has a second program relative to music and the environment and it was agreed that this could and should be held in the Fall. Claire suggested that the Maine Museum of Art might be an extraordinary place to hold this and he agreed to look into this possibility.

Ed passed around a copy of Draft #3 of the MMC Handbook. Regents were enthusiastic. A brief explanation of the 'common man' phrase was given by Walter and printing prices were reviewed. It was agreed that we would obtain 3,000 copies 80# paper with a color cover.

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This led to discussion of Maine Masonic College nametags and Ed offered to do a mockup. He also promised to have identity material for discussion at the next meeting. A blue blazer patch was mentioned as another item for consideration.

The Meeting Checklist was approved with additions and will be added to the website immediately. This presumes all programs will be assigned a 'Responsible Regent' who will attend to the items on the list to ensure smooth operation of the programs regardless of who is involved.

Under course planning, the following was tentatively put in place:

12 September – Susan Wesley, Ph.D. – Music & Architecture

? Portland Museum of Art (Tusch)

We'll want to advertise to the architecture people in and around Southern Maine!

17 October – ELM04 – Eric Kuntz, M.D. - Psychology of Symbols

? Southern Maine Community College (Tusch)

23 November – Program/course on woodland management

? Ashland? Somewhere north of Bangor (Leighton)

December – Astronomy

9 January 2010 (Snow date: 16 Jan) – LAS02 – Sam McKeeman - Critical & Logical Thinking

? St. Paul's Lodge, Rockport (Leighton)

The next issue of the Entablature needs to be to the Maine Mason publisher by 15 February. This issue is ostensibly focused on 'charity' so articles were solicited along those lines.

While there was much more we could have discussed, the smell of corn chowder called and accordingly the meeting was officially closed at 12:17PM with our next meeting being set for March 1st.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College