



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

March 1, 2009

Our meeting today at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 began with an uncustomary 'confusion amongst the workmen' arising from the absence of our Grand Master ~~Hiram~~ Jerry Leighton and, perhaps more importantly, the donuts and coffee! We quickly observed that Cub Scouts would soon overrun our humble activities in the near future so we retreated to the lodge room for our meeting. It was attended by Bros. Richard Bowden, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, Donald McDougall, David Richardson and Claire Tusch. Once arranged, Chairman Steve Nichols attempted to call the meeting to order at 9:15am after a discussion of various past and present Masonic events of relevance had run its course. The minutes of the preceding meeting were approved with one correction (inclusion of Don in the attendees).

The Treasurer gave a report of our financial status and after discussion of our plans for the ensuing year the Chairman indicated he will attempt to submit a rational request for funding to the Charitable Foundation prior to their next meeting.

The Dean of Academic Affairs, Bro. Walter Macdougall, then presented his report (copy attached) and various portions were discussed at further length. He requested and received approval to pursue the program on 'Leadership in a Volunteer Organization' which we could schedule for the early Fall, perhaps in Ellsworth. Note was made about the presentation on Architecture by Walter and Don and discussion about the music course produced a strong expression of interest. The report was accepted with thanks.

We also discussed Don's presentation as well as his work with a member of his lodge on a program about logging in the Maine woods. More information to be available as this proceeds.

We then moved to a discussion of mentoring. Claire mentioned that the Masonic Restoration website had just been revamped with Ed commenting that it had been two years without any activity and that in the 'Lodge Program' section, the first three examples were from the Grand Lodge of Maine website, indicating that our MEALS Committee clearly had been accomplishing things over the years and that Maine needn't take a back seat to anyone in terms of programming for the Craft! There was discussion and further comments relative to the 'train the teacher/trainer' concept inclusion.

The topic of 'Freemasonry Around The World' was mentioned and it was noted that this could be reasonably done as a College DVD. No further discussion or decisions on this.

Ed asked for a final decision on the Handbook printing. It was voted that we would order 2,000 copies this first time with the booklet to be done on 80# glossy paper, the cover 10pt100# stock and poly-wrapped in packages of 10. Ed indicated that he should have them within two weeks as he would put the order in as soon as he returned home.

We discussed having certificates for class attendees, obtaining an inexpensive variety from Staples and making them available on-site with the use of a mobile printer.

Maine Masonic College – Board of Regents Minutes

Our lunch creator appeared and noted that, due to the presence of the Cub Scouts downstairs, she needed to coordinate our lunch. It being nearly 11am, we agreed to come down and eat at that time which was accomplished by our standing in the kitchen enjoying the great meal. After approximately 30 minutes, we returned upstairs to continue our deliberations, leaving the Cubs and their leader, our Regent, Kelley Carter to their fun.

Ed noted the progress on the Ethics DVD but noted that there were several troublesome matters relative to sales. It was agreed that a mechanism will be established for ensuring that appropriate taxes are paid.

It was also agreed that we will proceed with the next video using Sam McKeeman's program on Mentoring. George, Eric and Richard will coordinate dates.

We then talked briefly about future Entablature articles for the Maine Mason magazine and it was suggested that some of the 'Friends of the College' should be encouraged to contribute in this area as well. This will be added to the discussion when these meetings are held with those identified for this.

We also discussed various administrative matters including accountability of the AV equipment, the pens and paper being provided to students, and the purchase (or not) of various identification items.

The next meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 19th and at 12:58PM we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College

NB: These minutes do not include the 3/1/2009 Report from the Dean of Academic Affairs which was distributed during the meeting. It is, however, included in the record copy on the College website.

Report from Dean of Academic Affairs

March 1, 2009

New Mason Classes

Our secretary has the evaluation data from the first of the series of courses for new masons. The class was brilliantly conducted by Regent and Doctor Eric Kuntz. While the attendance was small in comparison to the number of letters sent out announcing this opportunity, the participants were large in enthusiasm and represented new faces and depth of ability.

A conflict on the date of GF02 (Development of Ritual) has been created with the scheduling of a Grand Master's officer training session on the same date. This session would involve the instructor of this course. The Grand Master was contacted and quickly instructed our instructor to make the College's course a priority. There also seems to be confusion on the part of the instructor as to whether he is teaching GF02 or GF08 (Development of Maine Ritual). This seems a result of a lack of explicit communication from me. Communication, despite all we have endeavored and achieved seems to remain a problem. This situation will be commented on below.

Regent and Brother Kelley Carter reports that he is on schedule in producing ELM05 (Masonically Speaking). He is planning to use a "Jeopardy approach" which should greatly enliven the course.

R.W. Brother Reggie Wing, continues to tune GF07 (Tenets of Freemasonry). He will need a laptop, projector and screen. He will take care of his own hand-out materials.

Second Music Course

Regent and M.W. Brother Tusch has found a place for us to hold this class in the Portland area as he will report. There is also an opportunity at USM but reservations need to be made some time in advance.

Mentoring Course ELM02 (Mentoring)

This course was proposed as a support for the MEALS Committee. The Grand Master has expressed interest in this course as a training aid for his deputies.

We have conducted an orientation session with a professional in adult education and mentoring procedures. Regent and R.W. Brother Richard Bowden has researched several internet sources. There are good sources on the website for the Grand Lodge of England and Grand Lodge of California. M.W. Brother Wayne Adams is presently using a mentoring check sheet adapted from these latter sources. Sam McKeenan also has done course development in this area. Regent and W. Brother Don McDougal is developing an instructive approach to the problems of communication with candidates.

In shot, there is no lack of material and the task is to wisely select and integrate a presentation which fits our Masonic needs and the time restraints.

I have talked with R.W. Brother Tim Martel about arranging a planning meeting. However, some solid direction needs to be established before this meeting takes place.

Astronomy LAS01

I talked with Alan Davenport at the U of M Observatory. He feels that our best bet is to work through the astronomy clubs of which there are several around the state. They

provide “Nights with the Stars” programs and supply the telescope. There is a club in the Orono and Kennebunkport areas.

Leadership Training

I talked with Dr. Gordon Donaldson at the U of M. Gordon did the training and design work for our first leadership conference at Castine and is considered tops in the state. He will put on a day long leadership seminar for us focused on leadership in voluntary organizations. The cost would be \$700.00.

Architecture GF01

The proposed course using the work of Vitruvius has been changed to a presentation. This leaves GF01 open for a more general development. I have been in touch with Brother Bradley Marin who is graduating from a masters program in architecture this June and is anxious to develop and present a course.

Possible Course in Community Sociology

One of the participants at the symbols course was Christopher Readon who has done considerable professional work in this area. He is interested in presenting a course proposal to the Board of Regents.

Music and Language LAS07 and LAS05

We need to put some thought into these two areas for future development.

Advanced Courses

We might consider a special summer communication which would feature one of more of the advanced classes. We have a rich opportunity here.

Friends of the College

The friends program is awaiting the publication of the Handbook. A dinner meeting(s) with Masons willing to serve in this position will be arranged.

Communication

I have learned that our communication at all levels must be more explicit and extensive. There are many contributing factors to the problems which keep occurring- not the least of which is that the mission of the college is not yet a priority in the minds of most Masons.

Many want to help but are already overwhelmed. We need to have a much closer communication with the Grand Master. A designated speaker for the college needs to speak briefly about the college and its programs at district meetings. The work of the friends of the College is essential.

It is very possible that what seemed a boon to communication as provided by electronic developments is being lost in a great overburden of organizations and uncoordinated programs which now plague and confuse the mission of the Fraternity at large. Masons are not hearing not because they do not have “attentive ears” but because of the cacophony.

Walter Macdougall