



## Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

June 28, 2009

The Board of Regents met at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine. Present were Richard Bowden, Alan Heath, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, Gerald Leighton, Don McDougal, Walter Macdougall, David Richardson and Claire Tusch with the somewhat late arriving George Macdougall, Vice Chair, as acting Chair. Following a short story from Walter which concluded with the line "Not tonight deer.", the Regents regained composure and the meeting was called to order at 9:12. As punishment for his planned absence (even though he was being tortured at DeMolay's annual Conclave), Steve will now know the punch line when it's retold again!

The minutes of the preceding meeting were reviewed with two corrections relative to membership at the April meeting noted. It was ordered that the Secretary's pay be reduced by 50% for the next three months. The Treasurer presented his report and it too was accepted.

Jumping right into the work at hand, the course/program schedule was examined in considerable detail with changes noted. The full results of this lengthy effort are embodied in the current schedule listing. With this information, the website will now be updated and advertising material preparation can begin. Ed noted that now is the time we should be looking to be planning for the programs we'll offer in 2010.

As a by-product of some discussions, the need for a portable microphone was raised. It was suggested that we talk with Ernie Wheeler about this. *(Sec'y note: No one was assigned to this task.)*

There was also discussion about ways and means of communicating with outside groups but no firm plans were made.

We then discussed the e-mail Reggie had sent to a number of people within and without the Board requesting we take action to review his marks and let him know the results. This had been done at our last meeting (the first held after his class) but due to the absence of a formal process in our system to provide this feedback, Reggie never had received the results. Walter agreed to provide him with a copy of the summary results.

The matter above led to a very deep and far-reaching discussion about our role in 'directing' the focus and expectations of instructors. Arising from the actual contents of projected courses, it became clear that just asking people to 'put on a course' with no other guidance was a recipe for disaster. Richard noted the need for a fuller explanation of Freemasonry to those involved with the College but unfamiliar with it. While the College had early recognized the problematic issues with educating the adult learner, Eric noted that we have yet to grapple with the gender differences of our student body which are not otherwise present in Masonic programs. Walter expounded on this and wondered if the entire process should also involve input from our instructors at the outset. Eric agreed to take the lead in coordinating a consensus building group on how to orient instructors to our function, goals and objectives. Walter, Claire and Richard all volunteered to be part of this group.

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Exhausted, the Regents moved to more mundane matters, changing the date of the Picnic to Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> and setting the next meeting for July 19<sup>th</sup>.

We then revisited the issue of sending a mailing to those in the southern part of the State. This led to yet another intensive discussion relative to reaching out to new Masons as well as the general public. Announcements in newspapers etc. were considered. It was agreed that we will redo the letter sent to the Newport area previously and mail it without the MSANA booklet. Ed will re-write to update for current circumstances, getting the copies to Jerry who will again take responsibility for the mailing. Alan will get the labels to Jerry for this.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm followed by another 'working lunch'.

Respectfully submitted,

*Edward L. King*

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College