



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

July 19, 2009

Quote of the meeting: "Freemasonry is a purveyor of the Enlightenment." – W. Macdougall

The Board of Regents met at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine. Present were Richard Bowden, Kelly Carter, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, and David Richardson with Stephen Nichols presiding as Chairman. Discussions began early and continued on until the Chair asked if anyone knew where Brother Bowden was this morning. There were a variety of responses/reactions (most notably from Brother Bowden sitting approximately eight feet away) and those present silently decided that they would not take an offer of a ride from Steve at any time in the future. The collection for the red and white cane will occur next meeting.

The minutes were approved without correction, noting that Ed's pay suspension will likely continue ad infinitum. *(It's time to get a new Secretary, folks!)* The Treasurer's report was received with the Treasurer noting that no money had been moved to savings just yet as there were several bills upcoming.

Walter's report was distributed to those present and it was reviewed in detail. Of specific note, he reported on a highly successful meeting with Dr. Donaldson relative to the upcoming Leadership Seminar. He, Steve and George found Dr. Donaldson to be interested and exciting. They are excited about this program and because of their reaction, it was suggested that we might want to engage him for another presentation in the spring. All agreed and Walter will pursue this. There was discussion about the understanding by the DDs and DERs that this program was begun at the behest of the Grand Master for them specifically with the ultimate conclusion being that we will emphasize the advertising end of things. Walter will contact the Grand Master about a letter to be sent immediately with David noting that this program was only 8 weeks away. It was also suggested that contacting other fraternal/non-profit groups could/should be pursued. The cost of the program was also discussed and it was agreed that we would charge \$5 for lunch with the College underwriting the rest. Because this program will be for the public, the notification process was also discussed. Ed indicated that he could use a local business to provide a notification to the Bangor Region, Ellsworth Area, and St. Croix Valley Chambers of Commerce. Because of the limitation of 50 for this program, it was felt that this would be sufficient. If the program is to be done again, Dr. Donaldson indicated he could train additional facilitators to help in the management and thereby accommodate a larger audience.

There was discussion about the Entablature and Steve will continue to follow up to find out where we stand with this. (Our third edition was sent to the Editor but never appeared in the magazine.)

Secretary note: We've received apologies from George Pulkkinen. The one we'd sent previously was reworked and updated to include current listings of courses etc. It was sent to him during the first few days of the month. He has not acknowledged receipt yet.

Talk again turned to whether or not we should be distributing the "Further Light" booklet and whether it should be purchased and mailed. It was agreed, again, that we would not incur that expense but that we would send letters to new Masons during the past 3 years to those in the 14th, 17th, and 18th Districts.

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This led to a further discussion of the issues of databasing addresses. Ed is in the dark about the plans for the Grand Lodge ROLLS program and Grand Lodge is apparently uninterested in the 1600+ e-mail addresses accumulated for the mailings that Grand Master Leighton had done regularly during his term. Beyond that, there is a pressing need to be able to 'slice and dice' mailings to a large spectrum of folks outside of the Masonic environment in order to more fully publicize our programs. This problem seemed to this scribe likely to muck along. It was agreed, though, that contact would be made with Jim to encourage those whom he has identified for our 'Friends' program to support the upcoming programs both through their participation and their 'spreading the word'.

There was then talk about Dan Brown's upcoming book, 'The Lost Symbol' and the College's role in education about Freemasonry in its wake. No one knew of any plans at the Grand Lodge level to field questions etc. The College's plans to respond to The DaVinci Code have still not come to fruition despite the passage of a couple of years but with this book expected to center on Freemasonry, it was agreed that *something* should be done – though what could not be articulated with a general sense that we should wait to see what happens.

This led to a lengthy discussion of how to generate 'more light', both amongst Freemasons and the general public. Phrases like 'stabilizing understanding' and 'core of light' were used to describe what the College could and should be doing and the potential of it all seemed extremely electrifying albeit quite scary as well. We talked about programs to allow a person to understand the basic ideas both in Masonry and in life. It was generally felt that we as the Maine Masonic College have no need to mount a saving program for the Craft but that we do need to understand where ideas are generated from in order to focus our activity. The vast enormity of our self-imposed agenda is before us to act upon!

The next meeting was set for August 23, 2009 following which the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 pm and was followed by good food and great conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College