



## Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

November 1, 2009

The Board of Regents met at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine. Present were Richard Bowden, Kelley Carter, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, Gerald Leighton, Walter Macdougall, Don McDougal, David Richardson and Jim Ross with Stephen Nichols presiding as Chairman. In addition, Richard Rhoda joined us this morning.

The meeting began at 9:05am with the Secretary's report being accepted as distributed. Bro. Leighton presented the Treasurer's report, noting the transition to computerization allowing us to provide ongoing and timely reporting to the Grand Treasurer reports as necessary. Omitted from his report was that he had, in a matter of days, learned QuickBooks software and was now able to balance the bank accounts and do budgeting as we move forward. Regents are reminded that we still seek a Registrar now that Jerry has taken over this important portion of our work.

The Dean of Academic Affairs, Walter Macdougall, reminded Regents of the need to avoid the minutiae and then very briefly reviewed upcoming class status noting that Brad Morin's course was still waiting scheduling.

Discussion then moved onto the perennial issues of class attendance and (possible) apathy. We discussed communications needs and ideas. Some ideas included:

1. (David) – Contact Lodge Secretaries
2. (Steve) – Suggested follow-up on classes

Walter elaborated, stating that every generation takes a stand on Freemasonry yet nothing in Freemasonry today is prepared for today's needs. The Craft has been allowed to become parochial and narrow – yet what is at stake is the future of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Others added their feelings on this with Steve saying he feels like a blind hog in a meat house at times. Jerry encouraged us to not get hijacked into being a Masonic Elks Club but rather focus with laser intensity on education.

There were more thoughts shared on 'the future': what/where/when. Ed talked about getting on to the basics of what we're here to do and suggested such items as letters to new members of the Craft, ongoing video production (despite the lack of a tsunami of interest), Regents' education to make us each better leaders in this endeavor and more advertising of who we are and what we do.

We then shifted gears and Richard Rhoda, who needed no introduction, was welcomed. He began by noting that he had a copy of a recording of PGM Ralph J. Pollard taken from a tape recording found by a member of Ralph J. Pollard Lodge in Orrington. This has been mentioned at our meetings before. It needs 'cleanup' and Ed again offered to do it, later working out duplication details regarding ownership, pricing, etc. Richard left a CD with Ed. ***(Secretary's note: At the December meeting of the Maine Lodge of Research, Bro. Rhoda again mentioned this recording and was reminded that Ed was already engaged in its restoration. He asked the Lodge if they would be willing to provide funding for the project and \$150 was voted for him to use at his discretion to make this project happen.)***

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Bro. Rhoda then spoke of the idea of a state-wide open house at lodges with discussion of Dan Brown's book *The Lost Symbol*. He stated that he needed Masons lined up to be knowledgeable sources for this. Questions were raised about logistics, preparation, etc. but there were no formulated plans at this point.

Eric Kuntz then did a presentation on Noetic Science, a topic that was central to the aforementioned book. He spoke of the founding by Apollo Seven Astronaut Ed Mitchell (who is a Mason!) following his return from space. He spoke of works such as "Living Deeply – The Art and Science of Living in Everyday Life" and "The Intention Experiment". There was mention of the Chamber of Reflection having primary subjective reality and more. At the conclusion of his presentation, those present sat in awe of how much there is to know in this world....

Following the presentation, Jerry asked about scheduling more classes but this was deferred. Richard Rhoda returned to the question of whether the MMC would be willing to take part in the Open House programs. He was assured that we would provide whatever assistance we could but that it would be impossible for us to be at all lodges at once. Questions were again raised about logistics but apparently there are still no firm plans for this concept despite it being potentially as near as four months away. He was asked to keep us informed. Ed suggested that the need is not for people to address *The Lost Symbol* specifically but rather to have a broad understanding of Freemasonry with particular emphasis on the claims of anti-Masons which are always raised by those seeking to understand Freemasonry. Ed suggested that we could produce a 'frequently asked questions' (FAQ) on the book but, more importantly, he urged Masons read it and ask questions themselves rather than trying to 'fake it' as many seem to be doing.

December 13<sup>th</sup> was set as the date for our next meeting and we then adjourned at 12:04 for another opportunity for friendship and fellowship over great food!

Respectfully submitted,

*Edward L. King*

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College