



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

December 13, 2009

The Board of Regents met at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine. Present were Richard Bowden, Kelley Carter, Edward King, Gerald Leighton, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, Don McDougal, David Richardson and Jim Ross with Stephen Nichols presiding as Chairman. Regrets were received from Bros. Kuntz who was at a conference this past week in Boston and has just returned home and Ross due to family obligations.

The Chairman announced that although we might not have noticed, the meeting had begun and observed that at times he felt like a blind dog in a meat house (or was that a blind hog in a peat house?). In any event, we proceeded along to the Secretary and Treasurer's Reports, both of which were received and accepted without corrections. Steve further noted that the Charitable Foundation would be meeting on Thursday and that he would be attending. The Treasurer then distributed a proposed 2010-2011 budget which was examined line by line, including expenditure for advertising in local media so that the public can become more fully aware of our programs in their local area. Following this, it was agreed that this would be the planned budget submitted to the Charitable Foundation for their consideration.

The Dean of Academic Affairs, Walter Macdougall, reviewed the courses upcoming and noted that he had developed a plan to try and pick up on all of the details we've been sometimes missing.

Don McDougal talked about the College presentation with Ed Blodgett. He reported that about 40 people attended and that it was very well received. George noted that Sam also does a course on interpersonal relations that he'd recently attended and that it was excellently done: a good consideration for the College as well.

With regret, Steve announced that he'd had no epiphany but he had noted far more younger men joining which should auger well for our 'product'. This led to discussion about the current state of attention in learning and personal growth. Ed read a quote from "Secrets of the Lost Symbol" which placed Freemasonry on a very high pedestal, one which might be *too* high.

We then moved to discussion of a potential Summer Convocation. Walter introduced the concept of bringing together like-minded folks to talk about Freemasonry – drawing from a regional/national geographic as we had envisioned from the very outset of the College. Jerry Leighton then reviewed the plan as it was unfolding: It would be in July – maybe -, for a day and a half, with a planned attendance of 50-75 people, have a keynote speaker, perhaps via teleconferencing followed by a panel discussion talking about movements outside of the United States. A lunch and networking and then to breakout sessions on what various jurisdictions are doing, perhaps something about anti-Masonry by Ed, something on Prince Hall, and others. The day would then be summarized, there'd be a social gathering, a banquet with a Masonic speaker addressing 'things we sweep under the table' (examples later given), and then a wrap up. There were many parts/pieces yet to be addressed and there was an admonition to watch out for 'silver bullets' coming from elsewhere.

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It was agreed that we would go forward, using these thoughts/ideas as the foundation from which to build. Sub-committees will be created to ensure that this is achieved. There was concern about the short lead time but it was felt that this could be overcome.

We also discussed various details including the need to do heavier advertising in New England, perhaps provide scholarships for those in Maine whom we can identify as potential educational leaders for the future of the Jurisdiction. We'll need audio-visual teleconferencing and Ed was enlisted to identify those needs. It was a lengthy discussion of what to do and how to do it.

Richard Bowden then raised the issue of 'what the consumer wants' in relation to this endeavor, suggesting primer-type courses might be essential. This moved the Board to a discussion of who to have there, etc. David suggested personal contact would be particularly important to get Maine Masons to see the need for attending.

Moving on to our 'Board Education' segment, Ed presented a brief introduction to Geocaching and how it related to Freemasonry.

The next meeting date was set for January 17th and it was announced that Piscataquis Lodge would be holding their dog sled races on January 9th. (Masonic dog sled races? Who knew???)

Jerry noted that he'd gone to North Star Lodge, PHA in Bangor and he talked about Black History Month and Martin Luther King Day. He suggested that we could/should develop a course on Prince Hall Freemasonry. He also mentioned Seminary Hill Daylight Lodge #220's formation. Richard talked about the taping of two videos with Sam McKeeman yesterday. He reported, and Ed concurred, that they were GREAT. George, with his wife Donnie, were also there for the taping of the second program and he agreed enthusiastically.

We then adjourned at 12:17 for another opportunity for friendship and fellowship over great food!

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College