



# Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

January 17, 2010

The year 2010 has begun and soon it will be the fifth year of the Maine Masonic College's existence. We met at Meridian Splendor Lodge #49 in Newport, Maine with the meeting opening PROMPTLY (noted as such per order of the Chairman!) at 9:00am, which – in fact – it was. Present were Richard Bowden, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall and Don McDougal with Stephen Nichols presiding as Chairman. Gerald Leighton and Jim Ross were excused due to prior commitments but Bro. Leighton arrived later in the meeting. Guy Chapman was present as a visitor.

The Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved with one correction (sorry, George!) and we moved on to discuss the most recent event, that of the Chairman's meeting with the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation. It appears that all financing decisions were tabled until April with the exception of our request which was approved.

Walter Macdougall, the Dean of Academic Affairs, presented his report which included a discussion of the process through which courses flow. We also discussed class methodology etc. Ed commented that based attendance at recent events, we may be in a 'rut' of Saturdays but that moving forward, we might want to consider evenings except for the bigger programs. Eric also suggested that we need to encourage presenters to emphasize participation to produce a buy-in. Guy asked about targeting audiences and several Regents summarized our experiences and their reactions. We also talked about rescheduling Sam McKeeman's program for the fall in Augusta to be held in the evening. Discussion of the Vitruvius course also occurred and it was agreed that this will be presented to a small group first. *(Secretary's note: Immediately after this meeting, the Maine Mason Magazine arrived in mailboxes and because the program was listed there, this decision was reversed and the program proceeded as planned – successfully and well-received!)*

Discussion then moved to the Convocation. The specific title/content was bandied about with opinions on the Enlightenment, the intellectual side of Freemasonry, education, etc. We talked about funding: Steve suggested that we get sponsors while Guy encouraged us to pursue corporate funding. The 'where' piece was then addressed and Ed tried to summarize what had happened been considered so far. Many questions then arose as to dates, speakers, etc. and trying to define what this program would really be. Guy, never having been exposed to any of this, asked about numerous details and it was clear that a number of items would need to be resolved promptly. Jerry Leighton arrived and quickly summarized a number of pieces including the date (now firm at July 16-17) and location (Hollywood Slots Hotel @ \$170/night room charge. Further input was solicited and many side discussions occurred.

The Chairman noted that the date for submission of the next issue of *The Entablature* is March 15 and he encouraged submissions as soon as possible so Ed would have sufficient time to get it together.

We then discussed the upcoming Symposium being held by the Scottish Rite Museum of National Heritage in Lexington. It was suggested that understanding how others approach Masonic education

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as well as giving Regents more advanced educational opportunities so as to assist our own staff would be particularly helpful and accordingly, it was moved, seconded and passed that the College pick up half of the registration fee (\$25) of any College staff attending. Guy indicated that there might be a Scottish Rite bus going down and he'll keep us apprised of this.

The date for the next meeting was set for February 21<sup>st</sup> and then, while Guy Chapman was engaged in a side conversation, it was moved, seconded and passed that he be elected a Regent. When his attention returned to the main meeting, he realized the folly of his behavior but it was simply too late! He thanked (seemingly sincerely) the Regents for their action and indicated he'd try to do whatever he could.

We then adjourned at 12:08pm for a great meal and extensive discussion of how the Convocation can be carried out effectively.

Respectfully submitted,

*Edward L. King*

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College