



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

February 21, 2010

Our meeting this morning in Newport began at 9:05am following a multitude of donuts, muffins, etc., and decisions made between eating and talking. Present were Richard Bowden, Edward King, Eric Kuntz, Gerald Leighton, George Macdougall, Walter Macdougall, David Richardson, Jim Ross, and with Stephen Nichols presiding as Chairman. Also present was staff member Wayne T. Adams. Guy Chapman was excused due to the rigorous involvement yesterday with the mentoring program presented by Bros. Bowden and Kuntz and the meeting yesterday evening with the Prince Hall Lodge of Bangor in honor of Black History Month and Martin Luther King Day where Regent Gerald Leighton represented the Grand Lodge of Maine.

The Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved with one correction of a typo. Our Chairman announced that he'd had no epiphany while traveling to the meeting today but he had been musing on the fact that when we first started, all of our classes were taught by Regents, then we went to those outside the Craft and now, as we plan our Convocation, we're including people from outside the state! Quite an accomplishment.

The Treasurer presented a brief summary of finances and then Walter Macdougall, the Dean of Academic Affairs, presented his report. He spoke of the importance of personal contact in encouraging people to attend our classes. He invited Richard Bowden to comment on the results of the class held the prior day and he did so at length. Eric Kuntz also added some comments on his hour of the presentation. There were also several comments about the one class attendee who'd nearly sabotaged the class with his single-minded focus on a particular narrow issue. Thoughts/comments on how this might be avoided in the future were offered. Jim Ross then reported on Reggie Wing's class which had been held a couple of weeks earlier and Steve Nichols elaborated on it also. George then reported on the class he'd done with his Dad on Vitruvius as well, having first decided to cancel but reinstated at the last minute because of the listing in the Maine Mason sparking interest. Some comments were made regarding enhancements that could be made but it was agreed by the Regents who had attended that this was a class which should certainly be repeated. George will contact Sam about the possibility of doing his course on May 8th.

The Chairman then raised the matter of upcoming elections which our by-laws state are to be held in April. He indicated that he'd planned to step down from his position upon reaching the age of **<redacted due to lack of space for a number that large!>** but that unless there was someone interested in stepping up now, he feared that it would be difficult to ensure good leadership for the upcoming Convocation, a sentiment that others seemed to share. The Secretary had prepared a 'state of the Regents' spreadsheet showing the number of terms and term ending dates for each of the Regents and discussion ensued about our inability to attract and retain persons with sustained interest in the educational process beyond those already present. There was discussion of the By-Laws for the College and, more specifically, the fear at the outset of Regents growing stale and doing nothing in their positions. A look around the table, however, was convincing proof that this had not occurred in the slightest with every man doing much to make the organization function.

Maine Masonic College – Board of Regents Minutes

Accordingly, Richard Bowden submitted a motion in writing that the by-laws be amended to delete the section which contained the wording that a Regent could not serve more than two terms in succession. It was seconded almost before the Secretary had read what he had. There was discussion (a cacophony of voices would be a more appropriate descriptor, perhaps) as the precedence etc. was debated. Ultimately, a vote was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

Jerry then moved in writing that the position of Treasurer of the College be made into a staff position. The motion was seconded and discussion ensued. The Secretary noted that there was no provision in the by-laws that the officers must be Regents although there was general agreement that the Chairman certainly should. He noted that when he had resigned as a Regent in order to allow expansion of the Board, the job simply moved with him as an individual – and could easily do likewise in the case of the Treasurer but that there were no eager and bushy acolytes for the high honor of Regency at the moment so he moved that the issue be tabled. Even people who weren't Regents were voting on it and with the exception of the proposer who was sulking <grin>, the vote was unanimous – and then some. (Apparently we failed to tell Bro. Leighton that his term was envisioned as something like 'forever'....)

Ed asked if we were ever going to 'gear up' for the recognition program that we had agreed upon, noting that some folks would soon be approaching some of the higher levels of recognition. Wayne noted that a certificate means nothing and this reopened the whole issue of recognition which we had spent many hours on a couple of years ago. Also, Eric added that perhaps we should be considering some type of post-meeting testing as they do at medical meetings: something like ten simple questions to assess learning pre/post session. One way who will remain nameless commented that just getting people to fill out their evaluations correctly – or at all in some cases – was impossible. This turned into a discussion about the greater issues of organizing Masonic Education.

From this, Ed asked approval of the College to create a Facebook page. After a broad overview of the current social networking offerings with emphasis on Facebook and Twitter, it was agreed that we should proceed and the Secretary be given a 40% increase in salary commensurate with this. (He was later heard whistling the tune "Nuthin' from nuthin' leaves nuthin".)

Walter then, as he has done on SO many occasions, brought our thoughts to a deeper level by reminding us that whenever the path of life seemed steep, we must keep an 'even mind'. He opined that the business of Freemasonry is the training of 'even minds'.

We agreed to meet again on March 14 (although this might wind up being the 21st) and then adjourned at 12:12 for another great meal. In parting, Ed reminded everyone of the SR educational conference and that the registration deadline was fast approaching. No word yet on whether the Scottish Rite will be having a bus go down to this but it doesn't look that way.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College