



Maine Masonic College Board of Regents Meeting

March 20, 2011

The meeting began today at 9:00am with the following present: <Apparently the Secretary had a 'Senior Moment' this morning and didn't even bother to take the attendance. Time to reduce his salary by 50% - again!>.

The meeting began with a discussion of money, and specifically the budget prepared by our Secretary and Treasurer. It was agreed that in order to achieve further community outreach and support speakers of a high caliber, that some additional funding would be helpful. Accordingly, it was voted to present our proposed budget to the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation for their consideration.

The Dean of Academic Affairs, Walter Macdougall, presented his report. There are two articles of required reading between the Leadership classes. Pursuant to our standing protocol, these will be duplicated by the College. There was discussion about the interests Don McDougal is now pursuing and the group agreed that it would be desirable for him to put on a program titled "The Harmony of the Seasons – A Masonic Perspective" which would highlight the changing of the seasons in conjunction with the foliage season here in Maine. The plan will be to present this twice: once in the coastal area (St. Paul's in Rockport) and a couple of weeks later in the southern part of the state (St. Aspinquid) with the lodges holding a public dinner and this being the after-dinner program. Claire will contact St. Aspinquid for 10/15 and George will make contact with Rockport for 10/8. Ed will work with Don for the audio-visual requirements. We discussed the possibility of Alex Phillips doing another program as well as other past program presenters. Don announced that he had done a trial balloon on his music program and wants to do another. We also discussed having Sam McKeeman do Critical Thinking in September (George will make the contact) and Ed will see if we can't get the taped Critical Thinking program ready to go in the near future. We talked of a history of Masonry program but came to no decisions.

We also talked about required courses for the Diploma Program and came to the tentative agreement that they would be as follows: Critical Thinking, Rhetoric, Symbolism, The 7 Liberal Arts and Sciences (an introductory course), Tenets and Cardinal Virtues, and Understanding Masonry. Ed noted that flesh needs to be put on the bones of the Diploma program if it is to be publicized; many questions remain unanswered.

Following a short break, we talked about the upcoming Convocation and some details.

Jerry announced that he will continue to focus on both the Convocation and getting the Friends of the College up and running. We discussed looking at the model libraries use for Friends programs and from this, develop a summary of how we might advertise. The concept of getting an ad into the next Maine Mason magazine was discussed and Steve will attempt to get the next deadline date. Articles and material for the upcoming edition is desperately needed as there is now NOTHING on hand to use!

A discussion began about creating a database of program attendees and various ideas were suggested. Ed emphatically argued that while a database was important, it was FAR secondary to the need to develop a comprehensive and ongoing advertising and PR program which would let communities and lodges know just what was available to them. Staffing for both was discussed with names presented. Potential candidates were discussed and will be approached prior to our next meeting.

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The meeting was closed at 12:03 pm and followed by a great lunch. Our next meeting will be on April 17th.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward L. King

Secretary, Board of Regents, Maine Masonic College