



MAINE MASONIC COLLEGE

To: Most Worshipful Brother Claire V. Tusch
Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maine
A.F. & A.M.

In late summer of 2004, M.W. Bro Claire V. Tusch, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine, commissioned M.W. Bro Walter M Macdougall, Past Grand Master, to establish a committee for the purpose of designing programs of Masonic education. Part of the Grand Master's commission was to develop support for the Grand Lecturers and their non ritual schools.

M.W. Bro. Macdougall established a committee to respond to the Grand Master's call to action. The committee, unofficially known as the 'Light Brigade', held its first meeting at the lodge hall in Newport August 13, 2004. That committee has met on an ongoing basis and has developed an organizational structure which includes Mission, Goals, Objectives, and operating procedures. To implement the Grand Master's vision, it was proposed to establish a Masonic College sanctioned, to ensure permanency, by the Grand Lodge of Maine. The program offerings will be designed to appeal to all Freemasons in the state of Maine who have a desire to learn more about the founding principles, philosophy, and moral teachings of the Craft. The intent is to appeal to those who want to further their understanding of the many lessons taught in the Masonic journey. One member of the board of Regents had the following to say regarding the mission of the college. I add it to the report as I feel it acts as a purpose and need statement for the college.

"I am particularly pleased that we have retained the concept of "inspiring the members of the Craft to explore the nature and purpose of Freemasonry." With the surge of young men whom I see joining Masonry these days, I am convinced that we need to find some way of grabbing their fresh interest in the Brotherhood and showing them ways to root around in all of the available material and resources to find the deeper meaning of the Fraternity; or to begin and sustain a journey of the mind."

It was decided that the governing body would be a board of regents. Regent is a commonly used term for college governance. It is defined as 'Invested with interim or vicarious sovereign authority' – a keeper or overseer. A Board of Regents was appointed by the Grand Master and met March 19, 2005. The Board elected R.W. Bro. George Macdougall Chairman. The Board proposes that the **Maine Masonic College** be formed to provide the following mission, goals, and objectives.



MAINE MASONIC COLLEGE

Mission – The mission of the Maine Masonic College is ‘to create an educational environment for the purpose of inspiring the members of the Craft to explore the nature and purpose of Freemasonry which will lead to a deeper self-understanding of the founding principles, tenets, and lessons of morality’.

Goals and Objectives – The goals and objectives of the college are summarized as follows;

1. To work cooperatively with the Masonic Education and Lodge Service committee to ensure the Educational interests and needs of the craft are being met.
2. To survey the Brethren to determine needs and interest.
3. To establish course offerings based on survey results.
4. To develop and maintain a Maine Masonic College webpage on the Grand Lodge website.
5. To offer programs that may be of interest to Masons and non-masons alike for the purpose of strengthening community relations.

To meet these goals and objectives the following has already been put into operation. The board of regents is composed of at least one member of the Masonic Education and Lodge Service committee and Maine Lodge of Research to ensure coordination of initiatives. The Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master are ex-officio members.

In order to receive input from the Brethren concerning their needs, interests, formats, locations and timings of course offerings a brochure of College information has been circulated at this Grand Lodge session; A webpage and email address has been established on the Grand Lodge web page; and an article has been placed in the Maine Mason publication. There will be further mailings to lodges and District Officer Organizations as well as Grand Lodge Officers for more opportunity for the brethren to respond and discuss.

Suggestions for preliminary course offerings have included the list below of which many of these classes or seminars may be available for non-masons as well:

1. Leadership Seminars
2. Masonic Philosophy
3. Freemasonry and Popular fictional media (e.g. Da Vinci Code, National Treasure, Angels and Demons)
4. Symbolism (Do we use it and who needs it?)
5. Catholicism and Masonry
6. Masonic Music
7. The Development of American Ritual
8. Tenets of Freemasons



MAINE MASONIC COLLEGE

9. Practicing outside the Lodge those Lessons that we were taught in it
10. Drama
11. Public Speaking
12. Rites of Passage

A complete course catalog will be published this fall.

The email address is; mainemasoniccollege@mainemason.org

The webpage address is; mainemason.org/mmc

I would recommend the following be adopted as a Standing Regulation:

Whereas the Maine Masonic College has been created and organized to provide an extended opportunity for brethren to explore the nature and purposes of Freemasonry and its wider mission in promoting the well-being of all human kind, the Grand Lodge of Maine endorses the efforts of this college and recognizes it as a provider of opportunities for the further enlightenment of the Craft within this Grand Jurisdiction.

Fraternally Submitted by;

RW Bro George M.A. Macdougall, Chairman
Board of Regents
Maine Masonic College
1 Davis Road
Fairfield Center, Maine 04937