

Iowa Section of the MAA  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Saturday, October 22, 2011  
Central College

Present: TJ Hitchman (Chair), Murphy Waggoner (Past Chair), Jon White (Vice-Chair), Scott Searcy (Treasurer), Russ Goodman (Vice-Chair Elect), Ruth Berger (Competition Coordinator), David Bressoud (MAA past president), Joel Haack (Governor), Deb Czarneski (Vice-Chair Elect candidate), Brian Birgen (Vice-Chair Elect candidate), Ron Smith (Secretary candidate), Amanda Matson (Information Officer), Matt Rissler (Liaison Coordinator), (Bernie Baker (Secretary).

TJ Hitchman called the meeting to order at 7:05am.

1. Minutes of the 2010 executive Committee meeting were approved by acclamation.
2. Introductions and welcome to the Vice-Chair Elect candidates, Brian Birgen and Deb Czarneski, Secretary candidate, Ron Smith, MAA representative, David Bressoud, new Information Officer, Amanda Matson, and new Liaison Coordinator, Matt Rissler.
3. There was discussion of the Fall 10 meeting in Kansas City that 4 Iowa Executive Board members (Hitchman, Searcy, Hibbard, and Baker) attended to discuss the feasibility of a joint meeting in 2013. The Missouri Section meeting in spring 2013 is scheduled for Maryville, MO, and the Missouri section has invited the other 3 sections, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska-SE South Dakota sections to join them in hosting a joint meeting. The Iowa section needs to respond to this invitation, so that will be taken to the business meeting later today. Discussion points included a preference of those present that the Iowa Section keep holding the fall meetings, questions about the finances of such a joint meeting, the amount of the MO section meeting registration fee (thought to be \$25), whether the joint meeting would have a NExT meeting (of all sections or individual state NExT groups), questions about whether a potential second joint meeting in 2015 could be held in Iowa or Nebraska, about whether it would be feasible to organize some group travel (such as a chartered bus from Des Moines or another central location). The Executive Committee favored accepting the invitation and all this will be discussed with the membership in the Business meeting.
4. Ruth Berger reported on the Iowa Mathematics competition: there was a tie between teams from Iowa State University and University of Iowa. The trophy will be presented at the business meeting. The next competition will be held at University of Iowa and Berger is consulting with schools to choose a date, among those available, with fewer conflicts.

5. Hitchman & Searcy reported on meeting book sale changes: Physical books can no longer be purchased and taken from section meetings because of sales tax laws. All books must be ordered through the MAA and shipped (free of charge) to the purchaser. The Section still gets a rebate on books sold at Section meetings. This means we have some excess book inventory as now we need to have only 1 copy of any book for display. After discussion, it was decided that we will dispose of our 52 excess copies by using them as incentives to buy books at the meeting, as awards for student papers, as door prizes for attendance at the Business meeting, etc. One copy of new titles will be sent to the Section by the national for display at the Section Book sales.
- 5.5 Hitchman asked who might be attending the Joint meetings in January and could go to the Section Officers meeting to present the report for the Iowa Section in case he does not go. Waggoner may be attending, so they will try to be sure that someone gives an Iowa report and includes information about Joel Haack's work on writing a Section history.
6. Matt Rissler has agreed to become the Liaison Coordinator since Russ cannot hold 2 Executive Committee positions at once (he is also Vice-Chair Elect). There was discussion of the role of Liaison Coordinator and if that position should become "membership director" and if the Liaison position is still relevant in view of the ease of electronic communication. The consensus seemed to be to keep the Liaisons at this time and expand the role to membership as well. There was also discussion of what it would take to get at least the Liaisons to attend the Section meetings.
7. David Bressoud shared some information about changes happening at the national level: Tina Straley is retiring as Executive Director of the Association and Michael Pearson will be taking her place. John Kenelly will be retiring as Treasurer and Jim Daniel will be replacing him. David Bressoud has completed his term as MAA president and Paul Zorn has taken his place.

The MAA has substantial financial reserves (\$8+ million) but has been operating at a \$250,000 - \$300,000 deficit per year. Changes have been made and the budget is coming back into balance as this was unsustainable. In 2015, the MAA will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. The centennial will be celebrated at Mathfest scheduled for Washington, DC in 2015. The leaders are now asking for input from all members about new directions and priorities: what should the big projects be? What are important outreach areas? Send your ideas.

Bressoud also announced that discounted membership is now available for high school mathematics teachers to join the MAA for about \$85, and this is aimed especially at high school calculus teachers. Also, electronic subscriptions to the MAA journals are now available to libraries. He also presented a summary of the initial findings of the calculus study and referred

interested parties to his recent "Launchings" column. The second phase of the study will look carefully at successful programs. Berger asked if there was any possibility for subscriptions to Horizons to be smaller in size because of the cost, and was told to contact the Subscriptions Dept directly.

An announcement was made that the annual modeling contest is being held at the University of Iowa next weekend.

8. The meeting was adjourned by Hitchman at 8am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bernadette M Baker  
IA MAA Section Secretary