

WARTBURG COLLEGE



WAVELY, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

September 7, 1966

Earle L. Canfield, Dean
Graduate Division
Drake University
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

Dear Professor Canfield:

Since attending the Section Officers' meeting of the Association at Rutgers, I have thought of several things that I would like to call to your attention and others on which I would like your opinion. Incidentally, I found this meeting informative, educational, and interesting.

While you undoubtedly know about most of these requests better than I did, I shall pass on some of those made by Professor Gehman directed to section secretaries. If in communication with section members your letter is returned, notify Gehman that this member's address is unknown. Notify Gehman of the name and date of death of section members. Zip codes will be required of all members for the Combined Membership List and, in the future, sisters will be listed under their family name rather than under "sister". Notify Gehman of name changes for institutions in our section and of the names of members who have moved to other sections but remain listed in our section.

A committee is working on the preparation of a fifty year history of the MAA, and it needs information on the history of each section. Kenneth O. May, now of the University of Toronto, would like anecdotes and interesting facts about the early activities of each section. May would like to arrange tape recorder interviews with older members who could provide interesting information.

The topic which prompted the most discussion at our Section Officers' meeting was "How can we involve members of mathematics departments in Community and Junior Colleges in the activities of the MAA?" It was introduced by Professor S.A. Jennings from the University of Victoria. He was approached by math teachers of two-year colleges with the question, "What can MAA do for us?" Their section decided to use a two day meeting rather than one day and devote the second day to discussion of this problem led by representatives of the two-year colleges.



The discussion which followed indicated that this segment of our mathematics teachers has been neglected and that most sections have the same problem as we have in trying to obtain MAA representatives for two-year colleges. Very few two-year colleges have any members in MAA which supports the fact that we have not involved them.

Professor Henry L. Alder announced that Professor Goodner (I think) was selected as chairman of a new panel on mathematics in two-year colleges which the board of governors had just established.

This topic appealed to me for two reasons. I had been wrestling with this problem before the meeting searching for a way to encourage two-year college teachers to join MAA. Secondly I was looking for a possible panel discussion topic. What is your opinion concerning the possibility of a panel discussion on the topic "Problems in the first two years of college teaching" at our section meeting? It has occurred to me that some might think that this is too much like last year's topic; however, it is my observation that a panel discussion on a good topic attracts larger attendance than do specialized research papers. Could you suggest a topic which you feel would create more interest?

I have been delaying sending letters to the two-year colleges concerning MAA representatives until the school year begins. I intend to mention the newly established panel and am considering getting their reaction as to possible interest in the panel discussion which I suggested. I plan to wait with the letter until I hear from you.

Another matter on which I would like to get your opinion is the formation of a program committee to organize the section meeting. I discovered that several sections, if not most of them, elect this committee chairman at the same time that the section officers are elected. I can see great advantages for such a committee although I think it would be too late to get one for this year. I shall rely on help from the officers and Professor Sanderson. Such a committee would involve more people actively in MAA and could be chosen from various parts of our section so as to make direct contacts for the program more readily.

Thank you for the information which you sent to me some time ago concerning what is involved as Chairman of the Iowa Section.

Sincerely,

Bill Waltmann

William L. Waltmann
Chairman, Iowa Section MAA