

The Mathematical Association of America

(INCORPORATED)

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SUNY AT BUFFALO (University of Buffalo)
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14214

October 27, 1966

Minutes of the Meeting of Section Officers at Rutgers, August 29, 1966.

The annual meeting of officers of the Sections of the Mathematical Association of America was held on Monday, August 29, 1966, in Dining Rooms A, B, and C of the University Commons of Rutgers--The State University. Professor L. E. Mehlenbacher, Chairman of the Committee on Sections, presided and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m. Fifty-seven persons were present.

1. Roll Call. Twenty-six of the twenty-seven Sections were officially represented:

Allegheny Mountain	F. E. Justis, Chairman
Illinois	Arnold Wendt, Secretary-Treasurer
Indiana	Robert Zink, Chairman
Iowa	W. L. Waltmann, Chairman
Kansas	James Rice, Chairman
Kentucky	J. C. Eaves, Secretary-Treasurer
Louisiana-Mississippi	R. C. Brown, Chairman
Maryland-D.C.-Virginia	G. N. Trytten, Secretary
Metropolitan New York	Mary Hagen, Secretary
Michigan	J. H. Powell, Chairman
Minnesota	Rev. W. C. Kalinowski, Secretary-Treasurer
Missouri	Dale Woods, Chairman
Nebraska	H. M. Cox, Secretary-Treasurer
New Jersey	Bernard Greenspan
Northeastern	Not represented
Northern California	Joel Brenner, Secretary-Treasurer
Ohio	B. J. Yozwiak
Oklahoma-Arkansas	James Scroggs, Chairman
Pacific Northwest	W. R. Ballard, Chairman
Philadelphia	W. H. Leser
Rocky Mountain	W. E. Dorgan, Chairman
Southeastern	C. V. Aucoin, Chairman
Southern California	V. C. Harris, Chairman
Southwestern	S. T. Kao, Secretary-Treasurer
Texas	C. J. Pipes, Chairman
Upper New York State	R. D. Larsson, Chairman
Wisconsin	Sister Madeleine Sophie Drufenbrock, Chairman

Others present included:

Allegheny Mountain	Bertha W. Mather, Secretary-Treasurer	A. F. Strehler, Governor	
Kansas	Calvin Foreman, Governor		
Louisiana-Mississippi	P. K. Rees, Governor	Gail Young, First Vice-President MAA	
Maryland-D.C.-Virginia	Dorothy Bernstein, Governor	S. B. Jackson, Treasurer	Joseph Milkman, Vice-Chairman

Metropolitan New York	Walter Cassidy, Chairman C. T. Salkind, Committee on High School Contests Aaron Shapiro, Treasurer
Michigan	K. W. Folley, Governor Lyle Mehlenbacher, Committee on Sections R. L. Wilder, President, MAA
Minnesota	Murray Braden, Committee on Sections E. J. Camp, Governor
New Jersey	H. F. Trotter
Northern California	H. L. Alder, Secretary, MAA E. M. Beesley, Committee on Sections D. W. Blakeslee, Governor
Oklahoma-Arkansas	H. V. Huneke, Secretary-Treasurer
Pacific Northwest	S. A. Jennings
Philadelphia	V. V. Latshaw, Secretary-Treasurer Russell Ramage, Chairman
Rocky Mountain	W. N. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer
Southern California	R. B. Herrera, Secretary-Treasurer
Texas	W. H. Fagerstrom, Committee on High School Contests
Upper New York State	H. M. Gehman, Executive Director, MAA Raoul Hailpern, Associate Secretary, MAA K. O. May, Governor at large
Wisconsin	C.J. Vanderlin, Governor

2. Remarks by the President. President R. L. Wilder expressed pleasure at seeing so many representatives of the Sections present. He discussed the regional educational laboratories, which, according to a letter of July 1966 from President Johnson to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, have been established in 19 regions of the country. He urged that scientists and mathematicians, in particular, contact these laboratories to offer their assistance so that their viewpoints are properly represented. For this purpose, a list of these 19 laboratories is attached to these minutes.

3. Remarks by the Executive Director. Professor H. M. Gehman spoke about some of the problems of the Buffalo office in trying to keep accurate records of members' addresses. In particular, he requested Section Secretaries to notify the Buffalo office of any errors in address lists, of deaths of MAA members, and changes of names of institutions.

4. Remarks by the Secretary. Professor H. L. Alder announced that arrangements between Modern Learning Aids (MLA) and the MAA provide for free showing of the films produced by the Individual Lectures Project of CEM at sectional and national meetings of the MAA. Section Officers desiring to show such films at sectional meetings should write to MLA at one of its branches or its headquarters, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York, 10036, and specify that the showing will be at a sectional meeting. The Level I films shown at this meeting are expected to be available from MLA as of January 1, 1967. Arrangements for general distribution of the calculus films have not as yet been completed, but they are available for showing at sectional meetings from Professor H. M. MacNeille, Department of Mathematics, Case Institute of Technology, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio, 44106.

Professor Alder announced that the Association is bringing out a new edition of the GUIDEBOOK TO DEPARTMENTS IN THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA which gives information on 1200 institutions. This second edition, containing 96 pages, will be available on October 1 from the Buffalo office at 50 cents per copy.

Professor Alder then appealed to the Section Officers to see to it that they have a strong local organization and that they be conscious of their responsibility to carry out at the Section level the many projects initiated by the MAA at the national level. He also urged a strengthening of the system of MAA representatives. It is the responsibility of the Section Chairmen to appoint at each college and university within their Section an MAA representative. He suggested that in larger departments MAA representatives write circular letters to their colleagues to inform them of current MAA activities of interest to them, such as CUPM recommendations, newly available mathematical films, and coming sectional and national meetings of the MAA. He also urged MAA representatives to take the initiative in inviting MAA Visiting Lecturers to their campuses and to arrange for showings of films produced by the MAA.

5. Remarks by the Chairman of the Committee on the Preparation of a Fifty-Year History of the Mathematical Association of America. Professor K. O. May, Chairman of this committee, announced that plans for the separate volume of the Fifty-Year History of the Association were progressing. The Committee needs various people to write preliminary monographs and collect information, and would like to include a history of the Sections of the Association. Professor May requested that information on the history of each Section be sent to him by the Section Officers, or that they go back to the Sections and find people who know how the Section got started; the Committee is particularly interested in important and outstanding things the Section has done. Professor May appealed to members to locate oldtimers of the MAA who could be interviewed for this volume.

6. The Undergraduate Paper Contest of the Upper New York State Section. Professor R. D. Larsson, Chairman of the Upper New York State Section, reported on the Undergraduate Paper Contest of that Section, which was established during the 1965-66 academic year. Department chairmen were invited to nominate papers prepared by the undergraduate students in their institutions. Five papers were nominated, and one was chosen for presentation at the spring meeting of the Section. Prizes of \$25, 15 and 10 were awarded to the top three papers. This money was made available to the Section by the Association. The success of the contest has resulted in its extension for at least another year.

In reply to a question, Professor Larsson stated that the paper was presented in May.

7. Correlation Studies Between the Annual Mathematical Association of America High School Examination and Others. Professor C. T. Salkind, Chairman of the Committee on High School Contests, reported that every now and then the Committee receives a letter from a participating school to the effect that student X does well in the CEEB examination or in the SAT or in some special mathematics class, yet his performance in the Annual High School Mathematics Examination is mediocre or poor. In some cases, the letter follows with a request for an explanation or with a request for correlation coefficients; in others, there is an unstated but implied lack of validity in our examinations.

It was his feeling that such inquiries are prompted by the unwarranted assumption--excusable, perhaps, but nevertheless unwarranted--that every examination administered to the students of a school is for the sole purpose of evaluating the teachers' competence or adherence to a particular curriculum or a particular method. The thought of enjoying a mathematical experience for its own sake is all too uncommon.

Professor Salkind then made a qualitative judgment he has been able to formulate over the years:

1. Those whose performances on SAT or CEEB are poor or mediocre do poorly in our examinations.

2. Those whose performances on SAT or CEEB are good may or may not do well in our examinations.

To date no quantitative or statistical study has been undertaken chiefly because it does not seem that any useful purpose could be served by such a study. Why? Because the objectives are significantly different, and one would be reasonably safe in predicting a low correlation. In fact, if there were a good correlation, our examination or one or both of the others should be dropped as an unnecessary duplication of effort, energy, and money, preferably ours because the others have paid staffs to devote their time exclusively to this function.

Approximately, although not entirely accurately, the SAT and CEEB test course content, while the MAA Examination tests extra-course content.

Closely related to the correlation question is the one of "frustration". In its efforts to pose challenging problems, the Committee is in ever-present danger of inducing frustration and an occasional letter from an irate--and perhaps frustrated--teacher says so. In the 1965 Summary and, again in the 1966 Summary, the Committee has invited information from those with effective criteria for identifying good-but-not-frustrating problems. To date, no responses have been received.

8. How Can We Involve Members of Mathematics Departments in Community and Junior Colleges in the Activities of the MAA? Professor Mehlenbacher stated that one of our great concerns at the present time is the community or junior college. Professor Jennings reported that, two years ago when he was Program Chairman of the Pacific Northwest Section, he organized a panel discussion on mathematics in two-year institutions for a Section meeting. The participants came from a variety of two-year institutions, and each indicated what sort of mathematics program they had in their individual institutions. About January of this year, Professor Jennings was approached by two of the participants on this panel, and they asked what they could do as two-year college people to further mathematical interests. A committee of these people was encouraged to meet jointly with the Pacific Northwest Section at the regular June meeting and have a program of their own choosing. They asked if they could meet with the officers of the Section, taking part in discussions on "Is There a Place for the Two-Year College in the MAA?" They also wanted the viewpoint of NCTM on this question. Professor R. C. James of Harvey Mudd College was there to represent the MAA.

There are 41 two-year colleges in the Pacific Northwest Section; California has many more. The two-year colleges differ greatly, but they all offer transfer programs into four-year institutions, and they all offer mathematics which includes calculus. It is Professor Jennings' impression that the NCTM is not the place for these people; NCTM is basically concerned with elementary and secondary mathematics. He further stated that the most encouraging reaction came when Professor James indicated that CUPM had under consideration a panel to consider the problems of two-year colleges.

Professor Jennings further stated, "In our Section, at least we have become aware of a significant group of people teaching mathematics who should be brought into the MAA fold. What can the Association do? Try to arrange special sessions for these people?"

Professor Woods of the Missouri Section stated that the problem is one of non-membership. He suggested that the Association consider the possibility of allowing

a membership with subscription to the MATHEMATICS MAGAZINE instead of the MONTHLY.

Professor Jemmings replied that this is a partial answer but not really what they want. They are offering college transfer courses in calculus, for instance, and would like to know what textbook to use. Who is going to give them advice? They need some activity on the part of the MAA members.

Professor Young stated that part of the trouble was the question of money. Perhaps the people in these community colleges get no money for travel to national meetings. He further stated that perhaps the NCTM and the Association should meet back-to-back in order to bring in these people. He stated also that he felt that in another five years, half the people in colleges will be in two-year institutions.

Professor Larsson stated that he would like to comment since he was associated with a community college in the State of New York, Mohawk Valley Community College, after having been a professor in a four-year college. Professor Larsson felt that it was a great mistake for the MAA to set apart those who teach in two-year colleges from those who teach in four-year institutions, generally or otherwise. He felt that if the people who teach in two-year colleges were given special dispensation, the response would be less. He further stated: "I am not aware that there is any distinction between those who teach in two-year colleges and those who teach in four-year colleges. The trend is continuing toward the two-year college, and we are receiving faculty members from four-year institutions as well as from high schools. I think it is important that they should not be set apart. There is too close a relationship that is developing between two and four-year colleges". He further stated that visits from faculty of four-year colleges should encourage transfer of two-year college students, and that there must be a close association between two-year and four-year colleges.

Professor Justis of the Allegheny Mountain Section wondered about the feeling of the faculty member of a two-year college if he were approached with an offer of help on the part of a faculty member of the four-year college. Professor Larsson replied that there had to be a reason, and the offer should be a helpful one.

Professor May stated that he had visited quite a few junior colleges in the past few years and one very good way to help is to be interested in what they are doing: "You want to find out what is going on, and you can learn from them--questions will be asked soon enough".

Professor Bernstein stated that the comments made by the Chairman of the Upper New York State Section were well taken, but having taught in New York State and transferred to Maryland, she had found the situation quite different. In certain sections of the country there is a great distinction in the teaching at the community college level. Some of these colleges have literally sprung up overnight. She further stated that every section should undertake a membership drive among the junior colleges in their area. The Section meetings could be devoted, in part, to the teaching of the first two years of mathematics. Professor Bernstein added the following comment: "People who go, for one reason or another, into high school teaching choose to do so; if they do go on into college teaching, I think some of them are not prepared to teach in college. They should be prepared in order to teach in two-year colleges. I think that one can lean over backwards two ways. I think that this is a problem that Sections need to tackle".

Professor Alder stated that he strongly subscribed to the suggestions made by Professor Bernstein. Not only do many faculty members in the junior colleges not know about the MONTHLY and the MATHEMATICS MAGAZINE, but many do not know about the MAA. This is one way in which Section Officers can exert some influence. This can readily be done at the Section level. He urged Section Officers to get a list of junior colleges in their area and establish some kind of contact. It has to be done in a tactful and helpful way. He also mentioned that this problem was discussed by the

Board at its meeting the previous day, and the Board took two actions:

1. It authorized CUPM to establish a new panel on Mathematics in Two-Year Colleges. The Chairman of this panel has been appointed, and he is Professor D. B. Goodner of Florida State University.

2. It requested that this panel concern itself with the problem of building up the interest and activity of this group of mathematics teachers in the MAA.

Professor Eaves reported that in the Kentucky Section, salary-wise, the teachers in two-year colleges are a little bit better off: they are considered a part of the University of Kentucky. They are asked to meet on the campus once a year. In the past, every graduate student of the University was a member of MAA. This helped him to feel a part of the four-year college.

President Wilder felt that this problem is best handled by local cooperation. He repeated his remarks made at the Board of Governors meeting the previous day, that in Florida the four-year college people joined with the two-year college people and formed a coordinating conference. This will now be an annual affair where they will discuss coordinating the courses in the two-year colleges with those in the four-year colleges.

Professor Folley found after having served in Washington on academic year institutes, that Congress earmarked most of the money for secondary institutes. He felt that academic year institutes were on their way out, and he urged the Association to convince NSF to continue those at the college level.

In response to a question by Professor Jennings, several section representatives reported that their Sections had devoted attention to the problem of junior colleges.

9. How Can We Improve the Nature of Section Programs, Should Reports of Research Projects be Excluded, and What Sort of Topics Would Stimulate More Interest in the MAA? Professor G. S. Young led a discussion on "How can we improve the nature of Section programs?" He expressed his feeling that there is a very large number of papers presented at Section meetings which can be described as very minor research papers and that presentation of such papers will have a most damaging effect on interest in Section meetings. Various suggestions were offered for avoiding this: (1) by having parallel sessions at Section meetings with expository papers and contributed research papers being scheduled simultaneously, (2) by meeting jointly with the AMS, as is done in the Pacific Northwest where research papers then are presented at the AMS sessions and all papers at the MAA session are presented by invitation only, and (3) by a careful selection of topics and speakers supervised by a program committee appointed by the Section for this purpose.

10. Report from the Committee on Sections. Professor Mehlenbacher announced that one of the problems facing the Committee at present is a question from one of the sections which has grown very large and wishes to break up into smaller sections. The Board of Governors at its meeting the previous day had requested the Committee on Sections to prepare a review of that part of the Association's By-Laws concerned with the formation of sections. The Committee at present is preparing an appropriate amendment, and he asked Professor Braden for a preliminary report.

Professor Braden announced that a draft had been drawn up which would be submitted to the whole Committee on Sections; the final version will be submitted to the Board of Governors. If the Board concurs, it will be voted on at a Business meeting of the Association. The existing By-Laws give the Board of Governors no authorization to revise Section boundaries.

Professor Gehman asked that the Committee look at other organizations as to how they are divided into sections. The control of the Association over the Sections is very

loose, and the Sections differ in size and activities, having grown up that way. He suggested that if more uniformity is desired, each Section might better consist of a single state; in the larger states more than one Section might be needed. The difficulty with the present By-Laws is that they refer only to the setting up of Sections in areas where there are none. The Board of Governors hesitates to tell Sections to separate into two or more Sections.

Professor Braden requested that any Section desiring to revise its boundaries should let the Committee on Sections know at this time.

Professor Trotter of the New Jersey Section then announced that refreshments would be served following adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p. m.

LYLE E. MEHLENBACHER
Chairman, Committee on Sections

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July 15, 1966

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