

Iowa State University of Science and Technology



Ames, Iowa 50010

Department of Mathematics
400 Carver Hall
Telephone 515-294-1752
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The spring meeting of the Mathematical Association of America (Iowa Section) will be held in conjunction with the Iowa Academy of Science on Saturday April 10, 1976. As program chairman for that meeting, I am very interested in organizing a portion of the program that would be of specific interest to you and your colleagues who teach mathematics in the Junior Colleges and the Area Community Colleges. This portion may run in parallel with some more technical mathematics papers if such are submitted. Optimally, your part of the program would consist of talks presented by you and your colleagues on topics of interest primarily to yourselves. Hopefully, many of you will be in attendance and will find the talks beneficial. The people who traditionally attend our meetings teach many of the same topics to similar audiences and would be attracted to your talks on that material. Many would also be interested in your service to the vocational education programs.

The object of the Association, as stated in its by-laws is "to assist in promoting the interests of the mathematical sciences in America, especially in the collegiate field, by holding meetings ..., by publication ..., (etc.)" For five years the Association has shared the responsibility for, and on January 1, 1976 will assume total responsibility for publishing "The Two Year College Mathematics Journal," written and edited largely by two year college faculty and dedicated to providing stimulating mathematical and pedagogical articles, problems, book reviews, and other specialized departments for the two year college community. Even though nationally the organization encompasses the activities of the two year college mathematics teachers, there has not been broad participation

by the two year college teachers in the Iowa Section. Last spring a paper was presented by Merlin Fischer of Fort Dodge, and in previous years there have been panel discussions with two year college teacher participation. We would like to see this activity grow much beyond that stage and wish to establish a regular two year college component in our spring meeting.

Perhaps next spring we could have three to five papers each scheduled for a twenty minute or a thirty minute presentation. Clearly the topics you find interesting are the appropriate topics. Thoughts that come to mind relate to the characterization of the needs of your students relevant to their background and career choices, discussion of curriculum materials and additional material that may be needed, the place of statistics in your program, triangle versus circular functions approach to trigonometry, the interfaces between the two year colleges and the high schools, industry, and the four year colleges. These are intended to suggest the nature of appropriate talks and may or may not be topics of specific interest. You should consider the intended audience as being primarily yourselves.

We have prospects for an excellent meeting next spring. Dr. H. O. Pollak, President of the Mathematical Association of America and Director of Mathematical and Statistical Research at Bell Telephone Laboratories will be the principal speaker. He has an excellent reputation as a speaker and holds a particularly interesting position from which to view collegiate mathematics. Of course we will have other papers submitted as usual. In addition, we would very much welcome input from the two year college teachers on topics of concern to them.

We invite your participation. Brief abstracts of your intended talk should be sent as indicated on the enclosed form by January 23, 1976. This date is soon; if you have thoughts to contribute to a program after that date, communicate directly with me, and if possible they will be included.

Respectfully,

James L. Cornette
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Enclosure