

MINUTES

SUMMER 1985 SECTION OFFICERS MEETING

AUGUST 12, 1985
LARAMIE, WYOMING

1. Forty-eight persons present; see attached list.
2. 1986 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICS --

It was announced that there would be a Section Officers Meeting at the 1986 Congress of Mathematics in Berkely in August of 1986 on Saturday, August 2 from 7 to 10 (tentative). This meeting will be supported by MAA at the normal rate. Since the registration fee will be at least \$125, the Sections were asked to consider subsidizing the expense of their representative. The reason for the Saturday meeting is that the MAA Board will meet on Saturday and the ICM will start on Sunday; we cannot have any meeting in conflict with the ICM sessions.

3. NEW ORLEANS INFORMAL (NON-SUPPORTED) SECTION OFFICERS MEETING --

The tentative time for the New Orleans Section Officers Meeting will be from 7 to 10 on Wednesday, January 8. All persons holding any Section Office are invited; in fact, anyone is invited. We will be discussing the MAA Long Range Plan and how sections can develop their own such plans.

4. SECTION SURVEY --

The results of the Eighth Annual Section Survey were distributed and discussed.

5. SHOULD THERE BE A REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICERS VISIT TO THE SECTION? --

It was noted that some of the National Officers send a (informal) report to the MAA Executive Committee after they visit the sections. President Steen asked if the Section officers want a copy of that report and, if so, to whom should it be sent. In addition, he asked if there should be a more formal report prepared after all such visits.

It was the consensus of the group that if such reports are prepared, then they should also be sent to the Section Chair, Chair-Elect, Program Chair and Secretary. The group did not support a formal report or evaluation; they preferred to recommend that any visiting officer send a report if "the spirit moved them" or if they saw something that impressed or depressed them. Positive constructive comments would be welcome.

6. MAA SPEAKERS --

The current list of MAA officers eligible to be invited (at the MAA's expense) to one section meeting per year was distributed.

7. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE SECTIONS --

At least one section is suffering from financial problems and has formally asked for additional support. The item was discussed. Several sections noted that they have had such problems in the past and have found additional support through outside support for printing of their newsletter, through insitiutional dues, through section member dues, raising the section registration fees, etc. The primary problem seemed to be printing and postage for the Section Newsletters.

It was noted that the present National MAA support to sections is \$100 plus \$20 per hundred section members or fraction thereof. It was the consensus of the group that this should be raised to \$100 plus \$50 per hundred section members or fraction thereof; some supported \$100 plus 50 cents per section member. This additional support would allow printing and distribution of additional newsletters which most thought would be a valuable service of the sections.

8. AWARDS FOR STUDENT PAPERS AT SECTION MEETINGS. --

It was noted that some sections have difficulty determining the "winners" of the present three MAA student memberships annually awarded to student paper presentors at the Section meetings. There was a motion that: ALL STUDENTS GIVING PAPERS AT AN MAA SECTION MEETING SHOULD BE GIVEN A ONE YEAR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP TO THE MAA IF RECOMMENDED BY THE SECTION. This motion passed. If a student is presently a member of MAA, then they would be given an MAA book of their choice.

It was strongly recommended that sections support student papers. This is seen as a way of increasing interest in professional mathematics and aiding the membership of the MAA. Several noted that the success of student papers is directly proportional to the commitment of faculty members at the various institutions to encourage and support the student projects.

It was recommended that if an institution or a section has a student prize of its own, then this prize should be or contain a membership to the MAA.

9. DEPARTMENT CHAIR MEETINGS AT SECTION MEETINGS --

Joe Cude of the Texas Section gave a report on the success of the Texas Department Chair Association, its activities in curriculum, inter-institutional communication, etc; see attached report. Several sections noted that they had regular breakfasts, luncheons or sessions for Department Chairs. This was seen as a valuable communication session and also as a way of getting the department chairs to the section meetings (who usually brought other persons from their institutions.) One person noted that this was a method of getting better participation from the 'research or Ph.D' institutions since their chairs would not want to be left out. Further, there is a great deal of concern on undergraduate education (several national studies have been critical) and the sections and department chairs should seize on this.

10. NEWSLETTERS --

It was noted that only four sections of the twenty-nine do not presently publish a newsletter; all recommended that they consider doing so. Presently, every newsletter editor receives the newsletter of all of the other sections; it was recommended that the editor send the newsletters received to the other section officers. It was recommended that adjacent sections share program and meeting information in their respective newsletters.

11. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED --

There was brief discussion on the possibility of Student Chapters of the MAA; President Steen is forming a committee to make recommendations, and there was discussion on ways to improve section attendance and participation by the research or Ph.D institutions.

THE COMMITTEE ON SECTIONS:

David Ballew, Chair
Sylvan Burgstahler
Barbara Faires
Glen Johnson
Norman Lindquist
John Neff
John Smith
Yousef Alavi (exofficio)
Al Wilcox (exofficio)