


TO: SECTION OFFICERS

FROM: DAVID BALLEW, CHAIR 
MAA COMMITTEE ON SECTIONS

SUBJECT: ITEMS FROM THE SUMMER SECTION OFFICERS MEETING

DATE: SEPT. 3, 1985

Many of you were able to attend the Summer Section Officers Meeting in Laramie; I have enclosed the Minutes of that Meeting plus other material which you might find of interest. Below are listed some items that have arisen in that meeting and in the discussions of the Committee on Sections that you might find of interest. We believe that the Sections are a very integral part of the life of the MAA (some would say the most important part) and we are interested in helping you in all of your Section activities. Let us know what we can do better to help you.

Items from various discussions --

1. We are recommending that the financial support to the Sections be raised from the present \$100 plus \$20 per hundred members or fraction thereof to \$100 plus \$50 per hundred members or fraction thereof. This should help with some of your expenses especially as they apply to the newsletters.

2. There will not be a Summer MAA Meeting for 1986 because of the International Congress of Mathematics Meeting at Berkeley. However, there will be Section Officers Meeting which will give partial support to the Section representatives. Since the registration fee for the ICM will be high, perhaps \$125, we recommend that the Sections consider giving their representatives additional support.

3. Several Sections have mentioned that they are finding it difficult to decide which of their student papers to give the three awards of memberships to the MAA. We are recommending to the MAA Executive and Finance Committee that memberships be given to all student papers when they are recommended by their Sections. If this passes, it may help solve your problems.

4. We also recommend that when your Section gives a prize, then it consider making that prize a membership to the MAA. Further, you might recommend to the institutions in your Section that when they give prizes to their students, then they make those prizes memberships to the MAA (or include such memberships).

5. Twenty-five of the twenty-nine MAA Sections publish at least one newsletter per year. All of the Sections that print these newsletters have found them to be very beneficial in the communication process with their membership. If you don't now publish a newsletter, we strongly recommend that you do so.

There is a hidden benefit; each of the Newsletter Editors receives copies of all of the newsletters of all of the other Sections. These are often routed to all of the other officers and this sharing of information and programs has helped many to build better meetings and sections.

6. While I'm writing about newsletters, let me recommend that you use your newsletter to give announcements about the programs and meetings of those Sections that are adjacent to you. You might want to contact the officers of the nearby sections to find out what they are planning and to tell them what you will be doing. Then since many of your members might be close to one of their meetings, and vice-versa, you may find a healthy cross attendance at the Section meetings.

7. There will be an informal, unfunded Section Officers Meeting at New Orleans on January 8 in conjunction with the Winter Meeting. The MAA is in the process of developing a long-range plan and we will certainly discuss how the Sections are affected and how they can develop their own plans; another very important part of any of these officers meetings is sharing the solutions of all of our common problems. Any Section Officer who will be in New Orleans is invited to attend.

8. As you know, the MAA will pay to have one of the National Officers attend one Section meeting per year. It turns out that sometimes these officers write an informal report on what they observe to the Executive and Finance Committee. The Committee on Sections was asked for their recommendations on this matter. We recommend that there not be a formal such policy, but that if informal reports are written, then copies should be sent to the Section Officers involved.

Please let us know what we, the Committee on Sections, can do to help you in your duties as a Section Officer. Feel free to contact me at:

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