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Reply-To: jheckler@MAA.ORG
From: David Stone <drstone@GSVMS2.CC.GASOU.EDU>
Subject: Highlights from MAA Sections
To: SECT-LIST@ENTERPRISE.MAA.ORG

To MAA Section Officers:

The following information was collected from the Section's 1999-2000 Annual Reports by the Committee on Sections. A hard copy was distributed at Mathfest to Governors and Section Officers, and this report will also soon be available at MAA Online (under Information for Section Officers). Also available there will be an Excel spreadsheet showing specific data collected from all sections. We can all learn from each other!

David Stone
Chair, Committee on Sections

MAA Sections Report -- 1999-2000
Committee on Sections

- * Thanks to the officers from all sections, especially the Secretary-Treasurers, for contributing annual reports and information.
- * Section meetings vary widely in their mix of activities, but all have energetic participation, valuable talks, friendly gatherings and exciting activities; national officers who have spoken at section meetings echo this impression. Over 5000 people have participated in section meetings this year.
- * All sections have Web Pages; many post their meeting programs and newsletters, in addition to a calendar, announcements, officers, links to section colleges, etc. Several sections allow contributed papers abstracts to be submitted via their Web page. Some make available meeting registration forms and the nomination forms for the Distinguished Teaching Award. The role of WebMaster is becoming increasingly important to sections.
- * All sections use e-mail extensively for officer and committee communications. Several sections have compiled e-mail lists or established list-serves for their entire membership. Some deliver the section newsletter via e-mail (upon request).
- * Almost all sections are using departmental liaisons for communicating and hope for increased use of this resource. Many sections have appointed liaison coordinators (frequently the section Governor), others are still planning to.
- * Almost every section gave a Distinguished Teaching Award this year.

Nominations are frequently sparse, although some sections aggressively solicited nominations and received a good number. Most sections hold nominations over from one year to the next. Several sections invite their teaching award recipient to give an address the following year. Several award money or MAA books. Some give extra honor with a "named" teaching award.

* Nine sections gave a Service Award this year; several give such an award each year, including Metro New York for the first time.

* Mathematicians like to eat and socialize -- every section meeting includes at least one luncheon, banquet or social event.

* Many sections have meetings of department liaisons and/or chairs (often in conjunction with a breakfast or luncheon).

* We believe that all sections conduct MAA book sales at their meetings. Northern Californians (MAA publications director Don Albers' home section) bought \$2256 worth of MAA books.

* The sections report an astounding variety of student activities (talks, competitions, special sessions, poster sessions, student conferences, student workshops, Career Fairs, pizza lunch, ice cream socials, problem solving parties, T. A. Rush) and have good student participation. The Exxon grants which have provided valuable support for student involvement for many years have ended, but some sections have stretched out that money. Few sections charge a registration fee for students.

* Sixteen sections conducted workshops or mini-courses at their meetings; some of these were section NExT workshops; Southeastern held 3 and charged a \$20 registration fee and made a profit.

* Six sections conducted week-long Summer or Fall workshops (Allegheny Mountain, EPADEL (2), North Central, Northeastern (2), Ohio and Wisconsin).

* Several sections conduct mathematics competitions: Illinois (collegiate), Indiana (collegiate), Iowa (collegiate), Louisiana-Mississippi (collegiate), Missouri (collegiate), North Central (a team problem solving contest), Texas and Allegheny Mountain (a puzzle contest at the pizza party), Michigan (high school, with 15,000 participants), Wisconsin (high school, with cash prizes) and Metro New York (New York City Math Fair).

* More sections have begun local versions of NExT. There are yellow dots in Allegheny Mountain, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, North Central, Ohio, Pacific Northwest, Seaway, Southeastern (started up its third class) and Texas (its NExTers met at a separate event in the Fall).

* Nine sections have two primary meetings per year: EPADEL, Indiana, MD-DC-VA, New Jersey, North Central, Northeastern, Ohio, Seaway, Southern

California.

* Several sections have one or more "local" meetings or colloquia, in addition to their annual Spring meeting: Michigan, Northeastern (which had 5 "state dinner" meetings and a Spring one-day mini-course), Florida and Southeastern (where 175 attended five "state dinner" meetings).

* Several sections held meetings in conjunction with other organizations: Ohio (with SIAM), North Central (with MinnMATYC and MCTM), Southwestern (with ArizMATYC)

* Some sections sell advertisements in their newsletter: Michigan, Southeastern.

* A few sections report Public Awareness activities: Wisconsin obtained a proclamation for the state's Governor about Mathematics Awareness Month. Metro New York obtains official proclamations from the Mayor of New York City and the Manhattan Borough President. Metro New York also maintains a Mathematical Speakers Bureau. Rocky Mountain is a co-sponsor of the Colorado Mathematics Awards Ceremony, at which various student competition winners and the section's DTA are recognized.

Selected highlights

* Using data obtained from the MAA office, Metro New York has constructed a list of e-mail addresses for its members.

* Southern California celebrated its 75th Anniversary. The section has an on-line database for all Chairs and Liaisons in the section. Check it out at <http://www.jquinn.oxy.edu/MAA/>

* Allegheny Mountain instituted a new "Mentor" award, to encourage faculty to develop students as scholars.

* Allegheny Mountain displayed an attractive triptych of photographs of the Section officers, allowing members to identify friends and enemies.

* Allegheny Mountain has developed its own system for online registration.

* At its luncheon, New Jersey offered discussion tables; registrants selected a topic beforehand. Some of the topics: "How far towards reform does your school lean?", "Challenges of redesigning courses to include technology", "Discussion for department chairs" and "Alternatives to traditional assessment".

* Northern California conducts a "Governor's Meeting" hosted by the Section Governor. Wine is served and a fruitful discussion usually ensues. This year's topic was improving mathematics education for K-12 teachers.

* LA-MS is initiating an electronic "proceedings" of the talks at its meeting.

- * Pacific Northwest solicits sponsors for some of its invited speakers.
- * Indiana conducted a panel for gradate students, discussing the impending beginning of their careers.
- * Southeastern hosted new MAA Executive Director (and former section Chair and Newsletter Editor) Tina Straley as its visiting national speaker and presented her with the section's own service award.
- * Texas instituted a Section Honor Roll, recognizing individuals, living or deceased, who contributed to the success of the section over at least a 30 year period. Nominations were made and a committee made the final selections. A total of 62 names were read at the Section Banquet.
- * In a special session, Northeastern invites new faculty and graduate students to present 20-minute talks on their research or teaching interests. Illinois also invited new faculty to make short presentations on their research.
- * Ohio has many student attendees at its Spring meeting,. This year there were joint student/faculty sessions.
- * EPADEL gives free registration for full-time faculty who are first time attendees
- * Kentucky holds Aftermath, a reception on Friday night immediately after the invited speaker's address. It was reported that "Dulcimers are GREAT for this type of reception because they are not too loud."
- * In addition to honoring the Distinguished Teaching Awardee at its banquet, Kentucky recognizes the nominator. EPADEL awards \$500 to the recipient of the DTA and \$500 to the library at the awardee's institution.
- * Most sections recognize student presenters and posters with MAA membership and/or books and/or certificates.
 - MD-DC-VA and LA-MS present prizes to the top student presenters. The MD-DC-VA awards come from a memorial fund fueled by the section's share of the MAA book sale.
 - Michigan and Southeastern present cash awards to their highest scorers in the Putnam competition.
 - Metro New York has "named" awards for Putnam and AMC high scorers.
 - Several sections recognize Meritorious MCM teams.
 - Wisconsin presented \$500 to the two high school students with the highest combined score on the Wisconsin Section contest and the AMC12.
- * Michigan has local member and institutional dues (ranging from \$15-\$70). Its newsletter is distributed to all math instructors in the state.
 - Texas collected \$10 voluntary dues from about 100 members.
 - Rocky Mountain solicited funds to endow its Burton W. Jones

Distinguished Teaching Award. The fund now stands at \$1000 and a \$50 award is made each year.

Oklahoma-Arkansas uses the interest from an endowment to fund the N.

A. Court Lecture at its meeting.

Illinois raised \$1800 through "Institutional Sponsorships".

Pacific Northwest solicits sponsors for some of its invited speakers.

* Wisconsin honored four local high school teachers at its banquet.

Oklahoma-Arkansas honored elementary, middle school and high school teachers from each state

Texas donated \$400 to the state AMC for plaques.

* Illinois sponsors a mentoring program -- members of student chapters in the section can work with mentors in industry.

* Wisconsin gave door prizes, including the newest TI graphing calculator, at its banquet.

* Missouri held a Friday night banquet and a Saturday morning 5K run/walk. (Net loss or gain?)

* Michigan again had a well-attended women's breakfast, with the discussion centered on the Women and Math Network activities.

* Michigan again sponsored a major Student Career Conference in February, separate from its Spring meeting. More than 100 students from three states attended.

* About 15,000 high-school and middle school students participated in the annual Michigan Math Prize Competition; the top 1000 were invited to take Part II. Finally, the top 100 and their parents and teachers were honored at a banquet; the top 50 receive scholarship awards. The Michigan Section also sponsors a High School Visiting Lecturer Program and sponsored 2 Michigan Teams in the ARML competition.

* Two sections again had an "over 50%" turnout: Louisiana-Mississippi, Kentucky and Oklahoma-Arkansas, bolstered by significant student participation.

I really wish I had been there for :

* "Beware of Geeks Bearing Grifts", Allen Schwenk's Invited Address at Missouri

* Southwestern's banquet at the Macayo Mexican restaurant in Tempe

* "Wooden Block Puzzles for Kids from 2 to 102", Loren Larson's North Central Invited Address featured intricate puzzles he had carved, along with the appropriate mathematics explaining how they work

