



The Iowa Academy of Science

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614

Phone 319/273-2021

4 May 1981

A. M. Fink
Chairman, Iowa Section, MAA
Department of Mathematics
400 Carver Hall, ISU
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Dear Mr. Fink:

Thanks for your letter of 28 April and the two resolutions that were adopted at your meeting at Coe College.

These bring out rather well some additional facets of the difficulties we've had in trying to fit the MAA program into the Academy meeting. I don't believe the conflict with NCTM has come up before. On the level of the Academy meeting itself, this year's program for your meeting contained some papers that would surely have been of interest outside your own group, but its scheduling conflicted with many Academy events. There was apparently no effort made to coordinate the two even though the Academy program was finalized in mid-February. Some Academy members expected to see the Math program in the Academy's registration area but there was no initiative taken by the arrangers to see that it was available.

Another thing that the Academy Board noticed as they discussed this perennial problem of working with MAA on April 23 was that your program indicated that MAA, along with ASA and SIAM (and perhaps NCTM) have enough concerns and material of your own to warrant a separate meeting. There is evidently no reason to try to schedule your meeting and ours at the same time and place, considering all these facts.

By contrast this year we comfortably accommodated the program of the AAPT section (which met jointly with the Academy's physics section) and also scheduled a meeting for NABT. Both these groups accepted the obligation to pay Academy registration fees without question and cooperated all the way with the Academy's deadlines, fees, and program schedule.

To get to the point, the Board passed the following resolution on April 23 to reaffirm the position it took previously on the matter of other groups meeting with the Academy:

"Any organization wishing to associate itself with the Iowa Academy of Science and particularly with the annual meeting will be expected to integrate its program and cooperate with the Academy, including the payment of registration fees at the annual meeting."

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This resolution certainly doesn't preclude the inclusion of the MAA program into the Academy's annual meeting in the future, but the burden of cooperation must fall on MAA. We have done everything we can to accommodate your group, sincerely wanting to avoid a parting of the ways, but our efforts have not been met with any degree of cooperation.

We will not expect to include MAA in our plans for Fort Dodge next spring, and if the situation changes the year after when we meet at Luther College, it will be because MAA officers have decided to abide by the Academy Board's resolution, quoted above.

The Academy is the common meeting ground for the scientists of Iowa and has been for a hundred years. If the mathematicians in this state feel that they have nothing to gain by being included, it would seem that they don't consider themselves part of the scientific community. That's a shame, to say the least!

Sincerely,



Robert W. Hanson
Executive Director

dm

cc: E. J. Peake
E. T. Hill
J. B. Sheeler