

April 21, 1978

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I have now represented the Iowa Section at two meetings of the Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association of America. Somewhat to my surprise, the meetings have been very interesting, enough so that I would encourage any MAA member in attendance at a national meeting of the MAA-AMS when the Board of Governors is meeting to consider attending the Board meeting. A large amount of business is transacted, but committee reports are circulated before the meeting, most are accepted without discussion, and those discussed usually are of substantial interest and importance. The following items will be of particular interest to you.

1. Timothy J. Robertson, University of Iowa, was elected Governor-at-Large for the three years 1978-1980.
2. Annual payment to the Sections has been increased from the rate of \$60 plus \$10 for each hundred members or fraction thereof over 200 to \$120 plus \$20 per hundred members or fraction thereof over 100.
3. A large amount of time was spent in the August 13, 1977 meeting discussing the preliminary version of "On the Preparation Needed by Students Planning to Take Collegiate Level Courses in Mathematics". The hope, eventually realized, was to develop a statement that would be acceptable to the MAA and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. A copy of that document was distributed to all MAA members.
4. After careful discussion at the January 5, 1978 meeting, the Board voted to purchase two adjoining buildings in Washington, D.C. to house the national office of the MAA. You should have received information from the MAA concerning this purchase, together with a special opportunity for you to contribute to the building fund. This is an important step for the Association which I think will provide good return and will be a basis for supporting future programs. Slide pictures of the building will be the principal component of the Governor's report at the Iowa Section meeting April 21.
5. I have written to Professor Henry Alder, President of the MAA suggesting the Board of Governors consider whether the MAA should try to take a position as to what topics in mathematics should not be taught for collegiate and university level credit. I argued that much of the high school material described in the MAA pamphlet "The Math in High School You'll Need for College" is in fact available in college and that this undercuts the high school program, encourages students to delay study of topics best studied at a younger age, and leads to general inefficiency. On the other hand, drawing a line between high school and college is difficult and necessarily somewhat arbitrary and undoubtedly would, in some people's view, be mislocated. I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE YOUR VIEW AS TO WHETHER THE MAA SHOULD TRY TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE QUESTION.