

Nota bene Please return the completed questionnaire
no later than May 16, 1979 to:

San José State University

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95192

Dean L. H. Lange
San Jose State University
San Jose, CA 95192

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

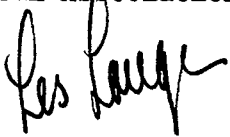
(A stamped, addressed envelope is provided.)

Office of the Dean

(408) 277-2332

April 16, 1979

TO: SECTION SECRETARIES of the Mathematical Association of America

FROM: Committee on Sections of the MAA***
L. H. Lange, Chairman 

RE: (a) Announcement of Meeting of Section Officers at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, 7:30pm-10:00pm on August 21, 1979

(b) Request for certain information in preparation for that Duluth meeting

(***The address list of this Committee is attached.)

Our Committee requests come to you at this time and with the above deadline because the Committee members know quite well that our colleagues in Academe scatter widely a bit later in the season, making the responses we need from all of you even harder to harvest. (Almost all of you replied completely and on time last year, by the way!)

The (funded) Section Officers meeting on August 21 from 7:30pm to 10:00pm will have the theme "What do we mean when we say that an M.A.A. section is a good section?" This 2½ hour meeting will have the free-discussion pattern we used with such apparent success in Seattle and in Providence. After being greeted by our President, Dorothy Bernstein, we will highlight a summary report (from the returned questionnaires), the new Guidelines booklet, and the Handbook for Section Officers. I have invited several of our senior statesmen (Drs. Alder, Gillman, Pollak) to start things off that evening with wise, vibrant, provocative, even hortatory remarks on the theme - each of them speaking for 4 to 5 minutes. (Each will be told that he'll be shot if he exceeds 7 minutes.) Someone on our Committee has pointed out that it is not true that "the only good section is a dead section!"

The Chairman of your Section should be asked now to designate your Section's Official Representative to the Meeting of Section Officers indicated above. It is that Official Representative who will then receive a partial travel reimbursement (consisting of approximately what it costs to fly coach to Duluth, MINN and back). It is important that your Official Representative have a copy of this present letter and completed form---which you are asked to supply to that person, as well as to your Section Chairman (who, indeed, may well be the Official Representative). The reason for this should become clearer below.

It has been said repeatedly that the vitality of the MAA is best shown in the work of the various Sections. For a number of years, the principal services of the Committee on Sections have been in connection with the revision of section bylaws and the conducting of the meeting of section officers. Our committee feels strongly that we should expand the scope of our efforts and service in support of the vitality of the sections. Several ideas and projects are in various stages of discussion and implementation ---and this letter again asks for your help with a major one of them at this time.

Frankly, we need to know much more, on a regularized basis, than we presently do about the status, activities, strengths and problems of the sections. To help us get this knowledge, we will be requesting each Section in the future to send us an annual report of its activities during that year. (We've again chosen that year to be May 15, year X to May 15, year [X+1] for this second run, at least.)

It may well be that the present (revised) form is still unnecessarily cumbersome. Please regard it as a second approximation to an ideal form which we seek, and help us by making any comments your judgment calls for. Once we better understand and comprehend how the Sections are really functioning, we may well be able to streamline things. For now, however, we feel we do need the information called for below. Please feel free to attach additional pages, programs, copies of printed matter you may have distributed---anything that will help clarify our understanding of your section.

Please ask each official representative to bring along a supply of whatever is available. There will be a display area for all of these, where they may be perused or picked up.

Please also supply your official representative with a copy of all of today's correspondence from me.

Finally, the Committee on Sections will meet at 7:30pm on August 20, the day before the meeting of Section Officers. If there is something that should be brought to my attention before the August 21 meeting, I could be contacted at the meeting of our Committee on August 20, or at the meeting of the Board of Governors that day.

LHL:ck

cc: President Bernstein
Dr. Alder
Dr. Roselle

Attachments

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