

Governor's Report To The Iowa Section  
Mathematical Association of America

James L. Cornette, April 18, 1980

I wish first to thank the members of the Iowa Section for the opportunity to serve this term as Governor of the MAA. It is a privilege to serve and interesting to see the mechanism of the Association. A number of talented people contribute a lot of time and effort, particularly to the publications of the Association. Again this year I attended two Board of Governors meetings, one in Duluth, Minnesota, August 20, 1979 and another in San Antonio, Texas, January 4, 1980. Some items of interest and curiosity from those meetings are reported below.

1. (August 20, 1979) A standing Committee on Teaching Undergraduate Mathematics was established.

2. (August 20, 1979) A report from the Publications Committee (E.F. Beckenbach, Chairman) proposing to establish a newsletter was accepted and the proposal endorsed. The newsletter would begin January 1981, be published five times per year and contain

"Current events of mathematical interest, and mathematical developments in the United States, Canada, and, to some extent, the rest of the world, editorial, biographical, and historical notes, etc., flexibly adjustable to the ideas of the Editors. Announcements and discussions of activities of the Association and its Sections. Reports of MAA committees of wide spread interest to the memberships. News and announcements of other mathematical organizations. Advertising, in particular, but by no means exclusively, of MAA publications."

3. (August 20, 1979) The item of longest discussion was the proposed, revised "Guidelines for Evaluation of Collegiate Mathematics Programs" presented by an ad hoc committee which I chaired. The new Guidelines reduced the emphasis on Geometry and increased the emphasis on applied mathematics and included a statement on giving credit toward graduation for high school mathematics taught in college. The last item received lots of discussion, but was accepted and the new Guidelines were approved.

4. (August 20, 1979) A motion to employ an Associate Executive Director was approved.

5. There are 456 committee positions, Board positions, and officer positions in the MAA (as of January 7, 1980).

6. (January 4, 1980) There was long discussion of the services (principally publications) of the Association and the finances of the Association, precipitated by the report of the Audit and Budget Committee which presented a fairly conservative position that allowed for no increase in the number of pages for the MAA Monthly, Mathematics Magazine, or TYCMJ and established a Reserve Fund of \$20,000. Prof. Beckenbach, Chairman of the Publications Committee, though this unduly limited the services of the Association and suggested that the Audit and Budget Committee be replaced by a "services and objectives" Committee. The Association experienced a "cash flow" problem last summer. I supported the more conservative fiscal position, as did the Board.