



The Iowa Academy of Science

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

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12 February 1980

To: E. James Peake, Secretary-Treasurer, Iowa Section, M.A.A.
Frank Kosier, University of Iowa
Arnold Adelberg, Chairperson-elect, Iowa Section, M.A.A.

From: Robert W. Hanson, Executive Director, Iowa Academy of Science *Peake*

Re: Program of the Math Section of IAS

I'm sure you're all aware of the perennial confusion and misunderstandings that surround the arrangements for the spring meeting of your organization. I hope I can shed some light on your situation as it relates to the IAS.

I have been prompted to write this letter because of (a) the way in which your constituency was advised about paying the Academy's registration fee (I'm referring to Peake's dittoed note), and (b) the way the program was submitted and scheduled.

(I trust that you will all understand that my part in all this is simply a part of the execution of my duties as an Academy officer/employee; there's nothing personal involved.)

The essential fact that I must deal with is that the Iowa Section of the MAA is in fact the mathematics section of the Iowa Academy of Science. Therefore I must apply the same "rules" to that section as any other section.

These "rules" are as follows:

1. The Section Chair must be an IAS member.
2. The contributed papers of the Section Program must be arranged from properly submitted abstracts of papers on Academy forms.
3. Registration fees (detailed on the abstract form) must be submitted with the abstract.
4. Abstracts are printed together in a form which, this year at least, will be part of the March issue of the Proceedings of the IAS.
5. Those who attend any section meeting at the annual meeting are expected to register and pay the regular registration fees at the Academy registration desk.

12 February 1980
Peake, Kosier, Adelberg
Page 2

These "rules" apply to all Academy sections, and #5 applies as well to any groups who choose to meet at the time and place of the Academy's annual meeting. If you think this through, I'm sure you'll understand why this must be the case.

Practically everyone who belongs to the IAS is also a member of one or more national organizations. The group most comparable to yours in that respect is the Iowa Science Teachers Association (or Section) which is the Iowa Chapter of the National Science Teachers Association and the Science Teaching Section of the IAS.

I don't know just what should be the resolution of this on-going misunderstanding. At the heart of it is, I believe, the obvious feeling on the part of some MAA people that the Iowa chapter of MAA has nothing to gain from being "connected" with the Academy. I can't decide that for the MAA, but I think it would be a good idea for the group to decide democratically whether it wishes to continue as the math section of the IAS. If the MAA chapter decided in the negative, the Academy would continue to have a math section. I know there are many M.A.A. members who actively support the Academy. Our former Treasurer was one such person. I know of many others; i.e., it's apparent to me that there are different opinions about the MAA/IAS connection.

To the point at hand, I will have great difficulty in incorporating the program sent to me in the printed program of the IAS, because only three of eight contributed papers were properly submitted.

We are now composing the program copy for the printer and I submit the following options for your immediate consideration:

- a. Include only an announcement in the program of your meeting; leave it up to your own officers to distribute the full program by mail.
- b. Include the full program as submitted to me; indicate in the abstract booklet "no abstracts available"; and do this with the understanding that well before the fall of 1980 (before our Board of Directors meets in late October) a decision is made by your group to either foreclose its present connection with the IAS or agree to reaffirm that the Iowa Chapter is indeed the math section of the Academy and accept the implications that are thereby implied.

May I hear from you by return mail so that our program preparation can proceed without delay?