College of Education
Division of Secondary Education
N220 Lindquist Center

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Professor A. M. Fink
Department of Mathematics
Iowa State University
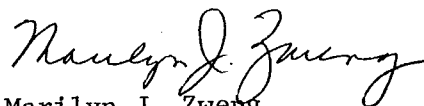Ames, Iowa 50011

Dear Professor Fink:

I have just recently learned that the annual meeting of the Iowa
Section of the MAA is being held at the same time as the annual meeting
(in St. Louis) of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Since
many mathematics educators are members and supporters of both organizations
the conflict in meeting dates is unfortunate. It's obviously too late to
change the meeting time this year, but I did want to alert you to the
problem so that, hopefully, it might be avoided in succeeding years.

The conflicting meeting dates raises the general issue of communi-
cation between the Iowa Section of the MAA and the Iowa Council of Teachers
of Mathematics. To my knowledge there has been almost no contact between
the two organizations in the 15 years I've been in Iowa. Since the two
groups share many common interests and common goals, it seems as if there
would be merit in establishing a formal means of ensuring communication
between them. This certainly isn't a novel idea. At the national level,
the MAA, AMS, ASA and NCTM share many committee responsibilities. And,
of course, the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences serves
(although not always well) to provide a vehicle for exchange of infor-
mation and ideas among these and other groups. I'm merely trying to
promote a similar kind of sharing at the State level.

I'm sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Bonnie Litwiller (UNI
Mathematics Department) who is currently President of the Iowa Council
of Teachers of Mathematics) in the hope that she or her successor will
initiate a discussion with you about mutual concerns.

You have my best wishes for a successful April meeting.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Zweng
Acting Chairperson
Division of Secondary Education

cc: Dr. Bonnie Litwiller