

January 21, 1981

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Dear Professor Zweng,

Thank you for your note about the conflict of meeting times between Iowa MAA and NCTM. I am very sympathetic with your view that this is most unfortunate. I think we ought to do something about it.

I would like to put the situation in historical perspective. From its inception, the Iowa section of MAA has met at the same time and place as the Iowa Academy of Science (IAS). In fact, this has occurred for so long that IAS thought that IMAA was the Math Section of IAS. This was the situation two years ago.

Two years ago, at my suggestion we discussed two problems with this situation. They were

- a) IAS did not consult with IMAA on the time and place of the meeting;
- b) IAS deemed attenders who were only members of MAA to be non-members of the joint meeting.

The two major consequences of these views are that the time of the meeting often conflicts with other mathematical meetings; NCTM this year as an example; in my case, it almost always conflicted with the midwestern regional meeting of the AMS. (This didn't happen this year).

Secondly, MAA members were required to pay IAS dues to give a paper on top of paying a higher registration fee than IAS members.

Last year, we decided, at the suggestion of IAS to declare formally that IMAA is not the Math section of IAS. In fact this was always the truth. At that time the IMAA instructed its officers to try to arrange a joint meeting with IAS Math section.

The officers tried to do this this year. In fact IAS refused to have one in which we would be considered as equals, i.e., have a say as to time and place, and have a common registration fee for anyone who is a member of either organization.

Consistent with our instructions we therefore have arranged this spring's meeting at the same time and place as IAS, but not jointly. We will charge our own registration fee, (minimal, maybe a dollar) with no IAS fee required. At that business meeting IMAA will review our future intention.

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The other consideration is that the past two IMAA meetings have been held jointly with Iowa Section of Amer. Stat. Assoc. and SIAM Ia. Section. We will probably also want to continue that.

It seems that we have two courses of action:

- 1) continue to try staying with IAS time and place, apparently with no input on time or place; or
- 2) make an effort to get a joint meeting of NCTM, SIAM, IMAA and Ia ASA and any other organization that would be interested, arranged at a mutually beneficial time and place.

I see hardly any possibility of working jointly with IAS. By the way the National Organization of High School Physics teachers has the same problem a) and b) with IAS. I would therefore recommend that NCTM send a formal letter to the Chairperson of Ia MAA ^{requesting} that you are interested in exploring a joint meeting, scheduled not to conflict with other meetings. It would certainly help the Ia MAA decide what it wants to do in the future for its meetings and its relationship with IAS. The Chairperson is Arnold Adelberg, Grinnell College, Grinnell, 50112.

Thank you very much for your information. Feel free to ask for more on my part.

Sincerely,

A. M. Fink
Chairperson-elect
Ia MAA