Name of Section: LA-MS Section

Name and Address of Section Secretary preparing this report: John L. Tilley
P.O. Drawer MA, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Name and Address of Section Representative who is to receive travel subsidy for meeting: Dr. W. Travis Thompson, Dept. of Math., Northeast LA-Univ., Monroe, LA 71209

Section Office held by Representative: LA Vice-chairman

I. MEETINGS

(1) For each regular Section meeting held during the year please give:

Date(s) February 17-18, 1984
Location(s) Hammond, LA
Approx. Attendance 175

(2) Please describe any particular highlights or novel features of this year's meetings, and give some indication of their success. (If more space is needed for your response to this or other items, please continue on reverse side.)

Mini-conference on Developmental Mathematics held in conjunction with Section meeting. Publication of 10 papers presented funded by grant from MAA to Section. Keynote speaker for Mini-Conference was member of staff of Board of Trustees, Institution of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi Excellent attendance Friday afternoon.

Also had short course on Friday morning before general meeting. Also have a special committee appointed to consider "Mathematical Concerns" aired at Friday afternoon session of the annual meeting. This committee is to present position paper for discussion and indorsement at the next annual meeting.

(3) If your Section had any special meetings, please give date, location, purpose, and accomplishments of each such meeting. (Report workshops, short courses, etc. under III.)

None other than mentioned above.

(4) Does your Section have a meeting or session for MAA Representatives and/or Department Chairs?

MAA Representative: Yes No
Department Chairs: Yes No

Dutch-treat luncheon with Section Executive Committee.
(5) Does your Section sponsor a banquet or luncheon for participants? No
If so, is it successful? __________

II. NEWSLETTER

(1) Does your Section publish a newsletter? Yes If so, how many times did it
appear this year? 2

(2) If the answer to (1) is "yes," please give the editor's name and address:
John L. Tilley, P.O. Drawer MA, Mississippi State, MS 39762

(3) Does your newsletter take care of all regular communications within the
Section? No If not, how many other general mailings are necessary during
the year? 1 plus 2 to Department Heads

III. SECTION ACTIVITIES

(1) Does your Section sponsor a Visiting Lecturer program for secondary schools in
the region? Yes If so, approximately how many visits were made this
year? 55 - Requests 63

(2) Does the Section sponsor a Visiting Lecturer program for colleges in the
region? No If so, approximately how many visits were made this
year? __________

(3) Is the Section involved in other education programs or activities, either alone
or in cooperation with other organizations? No If so, please describe:
(If you have pertinent printed materials such as publicity brochures, please
attach copies.)

IV. FINANCES

(1) Do you charge a registration fee at Section meetings? Yes If so, how much
for regular members? $5.00 - preregistration, $6.00 at door.
For students? $1.00

(2) Does your Section assess annual dues? No If so, how much? __________

(3) Is the income adequate to meet the expenses of the present level of activities
of the Section? Yes

(4) If the answer to (3) is "no," what steps are being taken by the Section to solve
the problem? __________
(5) Are there specific activities you have wanted to undertake but have delayed or curtailed for financial reasons? No Please specify:

(6) Did your Section apply this year for a grant from the MAA’s Fund for Aid to Sections? Yes Was the grant application approved? Yes

If so, for what was the grant money used? Publication of Papers of Mini-
Conference on Developmental Mathematics. See I.(2) Copies are available for $1.25 for postage and handling from John L. Tilley.

V. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

(1) On the basis of your Section’s recent activities and present condition, what would you say have been its strongest features or most significant activities this year?

The continued support of a majority of our membership in meeting attendance especially with the funding reductions received in both states after the budgets had been set. Some of our retired members continue to attend the section meeting.

(2) What do you consider to be the weakest features or most serious problems facing your Section at this time?

The lack of participation by some of the institutions in our section.

(3) Please characterize as Good, Fair, or Poor the extent of participation in Section activity this year by members who are in the categories listed. Can you give a rough percentage of the number of meeting attendances in each category?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Approx. % of Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. Institutions</td>
<td>G F P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Year Colleges</td>
<td>G F P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Colleges/Universities</td>
<td>G F P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Academic Empl.</td>
<td>G F P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>G F P</td>
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</tbody>
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VI. Did your Section make any effort this year to include undergraduates on the program at a Section meeting? Yes If so, please give details (e.g. number of student papers, description of special activities for the undergraduate, etc.):

Annual student paper contest. There were 8 student papers presented (two were graduate students in a master's degree program). Two $100 US Savings Bonds and 3 undergraduate MAA memberships were awarded.

VII. Does your Section assign a person or committee specific responsibility for membership recruitment? No If so, give the name, address, and title (membership chairman, 2nd VP, or whatever) of the individual with primary responsibility in this area:


VIII. Do you and your Section Chairman have in your possession the blue Handbook for Section Officers? Yes

XI. MAA program committees and other Sections are constantly on the lookout for superior speakers. Were there any outstanding persons on your program this year whom you would recommend for invitations to speak at National or Sectional meetings? If so, please give the name and institutional affiliation of each such person together with the titles of talks and other pertinent information. Summaries of this item will be returned to you.
X. Which types of programs or papers seem to be the most successful at your meetings? (Mark as many as you wish.)

1. Pedagogy
2. Expository
3. Research
4. Computer Related
5. Applied Math
6. Math Education
7. History
8. Other

Due to budgetary problems, all submitted papers are accepted for 8-10 minute presentations. Generally people without names on the program are not now supported in attendance of the Section Meeting. Consequently, the type of paper presented is diverse. We try to group similar papers in the same session but that is not always possible due to scheduling conflicts.

Have there been any significant changes or trends in the types of programs presented over the past 3 to 5 years?
No. (Special this year was Mini-conference)

XI. The primary job of this committee is to help Sections maintain and increase their effectiveness. Are there things you think we might do which would be of help to your or other Sections? Please be as specific as possible, both in identifying problem areas and in suggesting how we might help.

Continue to provide opportunities at the National Meetings for interaction among the section officers from across the country.

XII. Many Sections have developed written guidelines and/or procedures that have been proven very helpful and useful; i.e. guidelines for host institutions, job descriptions of section officers, etc. Would you send me any such materials you or your Section have developed? The Committee on Sections would like to distribute such materials and ideas to all Sections.
XIII. Please attach a copy of your Section programs to this report.

MAIL TO:

Dr. David Ballew  
Department of Mathematical Sciences  
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology  
Rapid City, South Dakota  57701