

**MD-DC-VA Section of MAA
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Christopher Newport University, VA
November 17, 2017**

Attending: Jennifer Bergner, Ethan Duckworth, John Hamman, Brian Heinold, Mitch Keller, Minah Oh, Edwin O'Shea, Phillip Poplin, Margaret Rahmoeller, Jason Rosenhouse, David Taylor, Dina Yagodich.

David Taylor called the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting on April 28 were approved.

Treasurer's Report Mitch Keller reports that the account balance is "a little ahead of last year by a few hundred dollars," with a detailed description of the accounts shared on paper with the committee.

There was a question on the distinction between general fund versus Project NExT accounts, how hard was the wall between these two. Mitch said that this split is really nominal depending on how many fellows are being funded and that the names are simply an internal earmarking for purpose rather than a testament to two separate accounts.

There are two meetings worth of Section and Project NExT funds that have accumulated; the source of these funds is \$10 out of each \$20 of every meeting's registration fees.

Discussion related to Section's Monies

There were several points of discussion during the treasurer's report, separated here for clarity.

There was a broad question about funds and past practices. For example, it's not clear how much invited speakers receive in the form of honoraria, when the MAA subvention made, etc. It was agreed that it would help to know the history of these practical matters. It was also agreed that it would help to have a budget, best practices for which were left for individual officers to research.

Remarks were made that the national organization's funds are smaller than before and so the subvention will also be smaller. An interesting aside to these remarks: subvention from the national organization is made according to apportionment model, each section receiving a share according to the number of members with postal codes in the section. It was suggested that one source of income for the section could be the meeting registration fees, especially so given the recent trend of dwindling books sales at meetings.

On the Carriage House brick inscription to memorialize Caren Diefenderfer, there are some challenges due to the length of Carens last name and the spacing prescribed on the Carriage House bricks.

Finally, there is a contribution of \$250 made to the section from the national office if an officer signs in at Mathfest. At the 2017 Mathfest in Chicago, officers were present but did not sign in and so the contribution was not made. The Section Chair agreed to designate an officer to sign in on behalf of the section at future Mathfests.

Section Representative's Report Jennifer Bergner opens with financial duress that the national organization is under. The Association's Board of Directors is hopeful that the outsourcing

of publishing will help alleviate publishing pressure.

Jennifer reports that the new mission statement for the MAA, ratified at Mathfest, is “to advance the understanding of mathematics, and its impact on the world.” There was discussion on this statement, debate on whether it is too general. Jennifer also reported that the difficulty of the name Section Representative persists but that no resolution was attained at Mathfest.

There followed a discussion on departmental memberships, how its benefits relative to its cost are hard to discern for smaller four year colleges, even more so for community colleges where students typically only spend two years.

New Faculty Coordinator’s Report (Section NExT) Dina Yagodich reports that there are nine new fellows in this year’s cohort. Fellows are from across the section geographically. For this and future years, fellows who complete the program will be expected to give a workshop for a new Section NExT cohort. This initiative received plaudits from many of the officers.

Program Chair’s Report Minah Oh reports that there are forty contributed talks for this meeting, including a large number of first time contributors. Anecdotally, forty is slightly higher than usual for a Fall meeting. A Polya lecturer was supposed to be at one of our meetings this academic year but will instead be at a meeting next year.

Upcoming open executive positions. David Taylor asked for the organization of a committee to encourage nominations for upcoming open officer positions. These include the following positions: Vice Program Chair, Secretary, Director of Member Communication, Student Activities Coordinator, New Faculty Coordinator (Section NExT), At-Large. John Hamman will lead this committee, to informally seek members who would be interested in being nominated for these open offices.

Meeting is officially adjourned.

Submitted by: Edwin O’Shea, Secretary, MD-DC-VA Section