

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

FOUNDED IN 1693

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

16 October 1956

Professor Richard P. Bailey  
Department of Mathematics  
U. S. Naval Academy  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Professor Bailey:

I write concerning the matter of our affiliation with a proposed national committee on high school mathematics contests. I should make clear here that the opinions set forth are entirely my own and they should not be construed as reflecting the thoughts of others.

I believe that we should support a national committee and the control of contests by a national organization. I do not feel that our local contests should be forsaken however, but rather, incorporated into a national program.

My reasons for this belief are as follows:

1. Standards for such contests will be uniformly set by a national committee.

2. This nationalization will afford the opportunity for talented young people in our Section to compete over a wider area. This will, to some degree, reflect on local high school curricula and the emphasis placed on important concepts.

3. The award of prizes might be made first on local contest winners and then additionally on the national level.

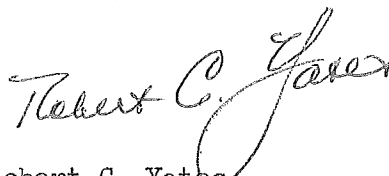
4. Our Md.-D.C.-Va. Sectional Committee with its rich experience and 'know how' can be expected to aid in the plans and organization of this national program and would undoubtedly be selected for positions of administration and direction.

I do not know what the Board of the MAA has in mind at present concerning the national program. It might very well turn out that contests directed nationally would consist of preliminary contests in the Sections such as we conduct now.

I shall urge Professor Fruend again to enlist Mr. Norris and Professor Lloyd to speak fully and clearly on these matters at our December meeting.

This matter should be of primary interest to all our membership and I expect we can obtain a consensus from the floor. It might be good to alert the membership and stimulate some thinking in advance of the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert C. Yates". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Robert C. Yates  
Head, Mathematics Department

RCY:cad

cc: Professor J. E. Freund, Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Professor O. T. Ramler, Catholic University of America  
Professor T. W. Moore, U. S. Naval Academy  
Professor E. H. Norris, Jr., Norfolk, Virginia  
Professor D. B. Lloyd, D. C. Teachers' College

The Catholic University of America  
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

October 11, 1956

Prof. Richard P. Bailey  
Department of Mathematics  
U. S. Naval Academy  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Prof. Bailey:

In the matter of national and local mathematics contests for High Schools, the consensus of opinions of members of the department of Mathematics at the Catholic University of America seems to be that the Maryland, District of Columbia, and Virginia section of the Mathematical Association of America should participate in a national contest, thus giving our local high school students an opportunity to participate and to compete for larger prizes.

This point of view seems to favor giving up our local contests. Nevertheless it is thought that contestants of our sectional area who do not win a prize at the national level, but who do creditably and excel among the contestants of this area should receive some recognition in the form of a prize or prizes sponsored locally. This feature could very likely be administered by our local contest committee.

Very truly yours,



Otto J. Ramlar, Chairman  
Department of Mathematics  
Catholic University of America

OJR:mkw

cc: Professor Yates, College of William and Mary  
Professor Freund, Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Professor Moore, U. S. Naval Academy  
Professor Norris, Jr., Norfolk, Virginia  
Professor D. B. Lloyd, D. C. Teachers' College

COPY

January 12, 1956

Professor F. E. Johnston,  
Department of Mathematics  
George Washington University  
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Francis:

This is to notify you that the Executive and Finance Committees of the Association have approved the petition of the Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia Section requesting permission to solicit funds from non-members of the Association using the sample letter enclosed with your petition.

I am glad that you sent this to Houston because I was able to get quicker action than if you had sent it to the Buffalo office. I trust that you will notify the appropriate committees of your section of the approval given by the Board of Governors.

With best wishes, I am

Yours,

(Signed) Harry

HARRY M. GELMAN  
Secretary-Treasurer

HMG:RMP.

December 24, 1955

Prof. Harry R. Gehman,  
Secretary of The Mathematical Association of America,  
Houston 1, Texas.

Dear Harry:

I am enclosing a petition, together with a sample letter of solicitation, which I hope you can present to the Executive and Finance Committees at the Houston meeting, or soon afterward.

These were drawn up by a committee of the Section which I appointed for that task. The Chairman was Mr. William H. Norris, who is Chairman of our Contest Committee; and they come to you with the approval of our entire Executive Committee.

I am sending this letter to Houston as I fear I have postponed the matter too long to hope to reach you in Buffalo before you leave for the meetings.

With best wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely,

Francis E. Johnston, Chairman,  
Maryland-District of Columbia-  
Virginia Section, The Mathematical  
Association Of America

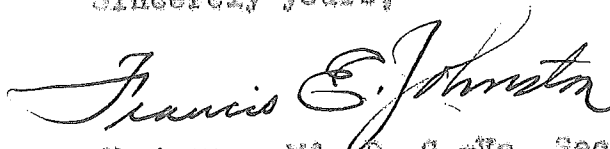
December 16, 1955.

Mr. William H. Norris,  
707 Redgate Avenue.,  
Norfolk 7, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Norris:

I have just received the copy of the letter you sent to Miss McCamman under date of December 14, 1955. It both surprises and distresses me. The only letters that I know anything about are copies of ones written by Prof. Bailey (mimeographed and sent to everyone in the Section) under date of November 10, 1955, and by Dr. George Petrie under date of December 12, 1955. I do not believe that anything in either of them was intended to be critical. You and I did differ on the wording of the petition to the parent body, but I only wanted to get a petition which I thought would have the best chance of getting by. The other members of the Executive Committee supported you and I was glad to yield. I certainly hope you and the members of your committee will not withdraw from a position in which you have done such outstanding work. I have not done anything like the work that you and the members of your committee have done, but I have put in a fair amount of time and effort in arranging for and expediting and delivering and in some cases personally awarding the prizes. I hate to have the Contest stopped. If you were to withdraw now I feel certain that the end result would be the abolition of the contest. If that has to happen I think it should be by vote of the Section at a regular meeting after mature consideration. I have been conscious of the fact that there has been some criticism which is one of the reasons I wanted a petition which would get by with as little opposition as possible, but I am now ready to go to bat with the petition as agreed on at the meeting of the Executive Committee at Catholic University. I sincerely hope you will not withdraw. You may be assured that I for one deeply appreciate the work you have done in this connection.

Sincerely yours,



Chairman, Md.-D. C.-Va. Section, MAA

Copy to Miss McCamman.

Copy to Prof. R. P. Bailey

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

October 27, 1955.

Mr. Stanley B. Jackson  
Mr. R. P. Bailey  
Miss Ella C. Marth  
Mr. William H. Morris  
Mr. Paul Chessin

Dear Colleagues:

Once more in order that all of you receive the same information I am addressing you a set of carbons.

First let me thank you once again for your cooperation in giving consideration and such prompt replies to my last letter. My three voting colleagues on the Executive Committee of the Section stand together and your wish prevails. That is one reason for having the committee---to keep the Chairman on the right path. So I thank you for your votes and opinions. These remarks are suggested by remarks made by all of you so if they do not seem to link up with one of you said it is because they were made by another member.

To begin with I would like to say that I do not feel that there was any intention to censure us for what was done in the past, although perhaps I am wrong. So I do not feel that any appeal to our past actions, or the good faith of our committee in the past is pertinent at present. Again it is not a matter of Gehman's informing at this late date of the rules. The present situation was brought about by the action of the Board of Governors of the Mathematical Association on August 29, 1955. The Board of Governors makes the rules which govern Gehman as well as the rest of us. So he has to advise us of the facts. We are not the only Section holding contests or contemplating the holding of such contests. As I understand the matter Gehman was on our side rather than against us.

I do not agree with the thesis that we might solicit funds as The Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia Section and be free to sidestep the rules. I think that would be splitting hairs. We are an integral part of the Association, our officers receive instructions from the parent body, our activities and our meetings are reported in the MONTHLY, when we use the name, even in a subordinate manner, we are trading on the prestige of the Association. The certificates we award bear the name of the Association.

(2)

As matters now stand we are not supposed to solicit funds from any source (except our own members) without definite authorization from the Executive and Finance Committees of the parent body. My only object in drawing the petition as I did was to secure speed in having it granted. I am more than delighted to know that you think we can obtain more. Mr. Norris has offered to carry the ball on this and I am going to accept his offer.

SO I HEREBY APPOINT A COMMITTEE OF THREE TO FORMULATE AND PRESENT TO THE EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA A PETITION WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO CONTINUE WITH OUR ACTIVITIES. I am appointing Mr. Norris as Chairman and Mr. Bailey and Mr. Chessin as the other two members. I am transmitting all the material I have on the subject to Mr. Norris. Mr. Norris, I see no reason why you should not carry out the correspondence direct with Mr. Gehman (it will save time that way), except that I should like to have for my files copies of the correspondence. There are valuable suggestions in the letters which I am enclosing. As I see the matter I think we shall be safe in asking to solicit from colleges and organizations entirely within our own area. Perhaps we will be safe if we agree that if we solicit from organizations with home offices outside our area we agree to specify to them that the request must not be referred to any higher authority outside our own jurisdiction--- that they must be free to grant our requests on their own as a local branch, or not grant it at all. But then I am appointing you as a committee, so I should not intrude.

That leaves us with the difficult problem of what we do right now. Technically we cannot solicit even from local organizations without the approval in advance of the parent body. (See the letter of October 5-th from Mr. Jackson to me) Personally I think that if we proceed as I suggested in the paragraph above we will be safe, until and unless we are directly told not to. In so doing we shall be in the position of asking ex post facto approval of our actions, and such a situation sometimes reacts against the petitioner. If we do that we shall be like a magazine which advertises "Second class mailing privileges applied for", or like an inventor who says "patent pending". That seems to be all right some times, though if the advertiser persists once the request has been denied he gets into trouble. But I am appointing the committee to consider those things.

I am sending the correspondence to you, Mr. Norris. Some day when it is all settled I hope you will return it to me. I certainly thank you for volunteering to do this. Best wishes

Sincerely,

Francis E. Johnston

20 Oct 1955

Professor F. E. Johnston  
Department of Mathematics  
George Washington University  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Professor Johnston,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October 1955.  
My position on the issue under discussion is as follows:

(1) I vote not to submit the petition with the second paragraph as written.

(2) I would not oppose a petition consisting of the first paragraph alone, but it seems clear to me that such a petition would be unsuccessful.

(3) As an alternative which I feel has some chance of success I recommend the following: That we prepare for submission a detailed prospectus of the campaign, including a copy of the letter of solicitation and a list of the organizations to which it is to be sent.

I feel that if the letter of solicitation is properly written we stand a chance of getting our campaign approved.

Very sincerely,

Richard P. Bailey

COPY

THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

University of Buffalo,  
Buffalo 14, New York  
July 29, 1955

Prof. F. E. Johnston,  
Department of Mathematics  
George Washington University  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Francis:

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\*\*\*\*\*. Your own Section is an active one because of the high school contest which you are sponsoring. In this connection, I should like to request your Section and the contest committee to refrain from soliciting for the contest outside the boundaries of your Section. By all means, avoid any solicitation of funds in the State of New York or from companies having headquarters in New York State. The Tompkins Act of New York State forbids such solicitation. Also, the Board of Governors has voted that all such requests for funds should be made through the office of the Secretary-Treasurer upon authorization of the Board of Governors or of the Executive and Finance Committee. At one time in the past, the Chairman of two different committees approached one of the foundations for funds. The board of Governors felt that this duplication of requests made it easy for the foundation to refuse to make grants to either committee.

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Yours,

sgd. Harry

Harry M. Gehman  
Secretary-Treasurer

HMG:rp

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

October 19, 1955

Mr. Stanley B. Jackson  
Mr. R. P. Bailey  
Miss Ella C. Merth  
Mr. William H. Norris.

Dear Colleagues:

I thank you very much for the consideration you gave to my memorandum of October 11-th. I hesitate to impose on you again, but since three of you did not back up the proposed petition I feel I must write again. I wish to do what you wish and the decision must be yours. But since some of your replies are in the form of questions, and since I feel that you might not have all the facts, I shall try to answer the questions.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter written to Dr. Jackson by Prof. Gehman and also a copy of the pertinent part of an earlier letter to me by Prof. Gehman. From these two letters I can conclude only that if our petition were submitted without the second paragraph (wherein we agree to solicit only from organizations which are located entirely within the area, or whose home office is within the area) it would be rejected. I think therefore we should be wasting time.

There is the question, "Will not the part about funds and prizes cut us off from sources such as Westinghouse, for example?". The answer is yes. Indeed that is the object of the Board. As I get the picture other Sections feel that they have just as much right as we do to solicit Westinghouse and other firms, but if everybody does it in the name of the Association then Westinghouse feels that they can't go along without some coordination. Then there is the Tompkins Act. If the Association, being incorporated in New York, is bound by the terms of that Act, then we as a part of the Association are bound by it. I do not feel that we as an integral part of the Association can go out and solicit funds using the name of the Association, and then refuse to obey the rules on the grounds that we are an autonomous body. However I shall do as you wish. So please send me another letter (or ballot).

Sincerely

*Francis E. Johnston*

I vote to submit the petition with the second paragraph

I vote to submit the petition without the second paragraph.

I vote to

Signature

12 October 1955

Professor F.E. Johnston  
Department of Mathematics  
George Washington University  
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Professor Johnston,

The action of the Governors at Ann Arbor disturbed me very much, as you may have surmized from my previous letter. I do not know whether Professor Jackson was present at their meeting, and therefore do not know whether anyone was present to represent the interests of our Section. I could not help feeling that we were at least indirectly, being censured for an ill-considered action, without being afforded an opportunity for defense. Furthermore, as a general principle, I do not like to see the tightening of control over local sections which this action of the Governors implies.

As I stated from the floor during the meeting of Section Officers, a requirement that the national organization be informed about the details of a solicitation program carried on by one of its sections, or about any other type of activity, for that matter, is merely common sense. If the national organization tries to control the activities of a section by requiring advance approval of its actions, that is an entirely different matter.

The apprehension of the national unit is largely, if not entirely, due to a law of the State of New York (wherein the MAA is incorporated) forbidding solicitation without a permit from the State. I conceive of the local section having an autonomy which makes the supposition that this law affects us ridiculous. In short, provided we make it abundantly clear that the organization conducting the campaign is the Md. - D.C. - Va. Section, and not in any sense the national organization, and provided it is clear that no part of the funds collected will be under the control of the national organization, there should be no objection to our soliciting the local office of any company which has an office in our geographical area, regardless of the whereabouts of the home office. (Surely we should not bind ourselves by a restriction which would prevent solicitation of the Baltimore Branch of Westinghouse Electric Company, for instance!)

I therefore suggest that the second paragraph of your letter to the Executive and Finance Committees of the MAA be revised to read in such a way that we request the privilege of soliciting funds and prizes from any and all industrial organizations having offices in our geographical area, with the understanding that we make it clear in the solicitation letters that the local section is taking full responsibility for the administration of funds and disposition of prizes.

I am recommending to you that we forward your petition, amended in accordance with the above suggestion. However, in view of my conversations with Professor Gehman at Ann Arbor, I anticipate that Buffalo will expect to receive instead a much more detailed proposal, including certainly a copy of the letter of solicitation to be broadcast, and a list of the organizations to which it is expected to be sent. In other words, there is an excellent chance that our petition will not be approved. I feel that the issue is worth fighting over!

I am taking the liberty of sending copies of this letter to the other members of the Executive Committee for information.

Very sincerely yours,

Richard P. Bailey  
Secretary  
Md. - D.C. - Va. Section  
Mathematical Association of America

Copies to:

Professor S.B. Jackson  
Professor E.C. Marth  
Professor W.H. Norris


October 11, 1955.

To the Executive and Finance Committees  
The Mathematical Association of America:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia Section of The Mathematical Association of America, and by and with their advice and consent, I hereby petition that the Section be permitted to solicit funds, prizes and scholarships to be used as awards in the High School Mathematics Contest which the Section has conducted for two years and which we hope to continue.

It is understood that the Prize Committee will solicit scholarships only from institutions within the geographical area of the Section and will solicit funds and prizes only from organizations which are located entirely within the area, or whose home office is within the area.

Yours very truly,



Francis E. Johnston, Chairman

Stanley B. Jackson)	Members of the
R. P. Bailey )	Executive
Ella C. Warth )	Committee
William H. Morris )	M-DC-Va. Section