



The April Meeting of the Metropolitan New York Section

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THE APRIL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SECTION

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Metropolitan New York Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at Queens College, Flushing, New York, on April 30, 1955. Professor A. B. Brown, Collegiate Vice-Chairman of the Section, presided at the morning session and Professor H. F. Fehr, Chairman of the Section, presided at the afternoon session.

There were 116 persons in attendance, including the following 92 members of the Association:

Joseph Andrushkiw, R. G. Archibald, W. W. Bessell, Jr., S. I. Birnbaum, D. H. Blanksteen, Samuel Borofsky, C. B. Boyer, A. B. Brown, Azelle Brown, J. H. Bushey, Jewell H. Bushey, A. J. Carlan, Audrey M. Carlan, G. B. Charlesworth, Charles Clos, P. J. Cocuzza, H. J. Cohen, T. F. Cope, Demetrios Counes, W. H. H. Cowles, D. R. Davis, I. A. Dodes, J. N. Eastham, J. E. Eaton, W. H. Fagerstrom, H. F. Fehr, J. M. Feld, William Forman, R. M. Foster, Brother Linus R. Foy, D. H. Frank, E. T. Frankel, Leona Freeman, M. P. Friedman, Bernard Greenspan, Harriet M. Griffin, Laura Guggenbuhl, C. M. Hebbert, M. J. Hellman, G. C. Helme, E. Marie Hove, Joseph Jablonower, Aida Kalish, O. J. Karst, L. S. Kennison, G. A. Keyes, H. S. Kieval, A. E. Kinney, Charles Koren, A. T. Kovitz, A. W. Landers, C. H. Lehmann, C. B. Maile, Jr., J. H. Manheim, May H. Maria, F. H. Miller, A. J. Mortola, P. M. Moskowitz, C. J. Oberist, Eugene Odin, L. F. Ollmann, C. F. Pinzka, Walter Prenowitz, James J. Quinn, H. W. Raudenbush, C. F. Rehberg, Susan L. Reid, Selby Robinson, N. J. Rose, M. F. Roskopf, H. D. Ruderman, J. P. Russell, John Salerno, Charles Salkind, A. H. Sarno, Abraham Schwartz, Aaron Shapiro, E. I. Shapiro, James Singer, Sister M. Anita, Sister Maria Loyola, Morris Smith, Mildred M. Sullivan, R. L. Swain, F. B. Taylor, M. Virginia Terhune, L. F. Tolle, Annita Tuller, R. M. Warten, M. E. White, J. M. Wolfe, Leo Zippin.

The following officers were elected for the year 1955-56: Chairman, Professor A. B. Brown, Queens College; Collegiate Vice-Chairman, Professor Mina S. Rees, Hunter College; High School Vice-Chairman, Dr. Barnet Rich, Brooklyn Technical High School; Secretary, Dr. Azelle Brown, Hofstra College; Treasurer, Mr. Aaron Shapiro, Midwood High School, Brooklyn.

At the business meeting reports were given by the secretary, the treasurer, the Committee on Contests and Awards, and the Committee on Coordinating Mathematical Training.

The following report on the activities of the Committee on Contests and Awards was given by its chairman, Professor W. H. Fagerstrom.

There were 881 schools registered for the sixth annual mathematics contest, which is sponsored by the Metropolitan New York Section. Of this number 479 schools registered with the Metropolitan New York Section and 402 schools registered with the eight other state units that operate independently, using the same questions and rules of the contest as used by the Metropolitan New York Section. These registrations were distributed as follows: British Columbia—50 schools, Colorado—65 schools, Illinois—85 schools, Manitoba—5 schools, Oregon—61 schools, Upper New York—46 schools, Washington—60 schools, and Wyoming—30 schools.

The 881 schools were from nearly every state in the union, three provinces of Canada, Hawaii, and Scotland. There were over 23,000 students enrolled for

the contest. The winning school was not announced, since all of the scores were not known. Anyone desiring information about the contest should write to Professor W. H. Fagerstrom, City College, New York 31, N. Y.

Professor F. H. Miller reported the following recommendations for the Committee on Coordinating Mathematical Training: 1) three years of high school mathematics as a minimum for all college entrants; 2) separation of college-entrance and other students in the high schools; 3) greater stress on concepts and their application to computational procedures.

The group voted that the Committee should notify the Upper New York State Section that it approved such recommendations.

Dr. J. J. Theobald, President of Queens College, welcomed the people at the meeting, and then the following papers were presented:

1. *What the high school can do to recruit teachers of mathematics*, by Mr. L. W. Schlumpf, Andrew Jackson High School, St. Albans, introduced by the Secretary.

The shortage of qualified teachers of secondary mathematics poses an acute problem for all future training in this field. The problem promises to become even more serious. More efficient use of available personnel should be obtained by effecting different license requirements for teachers performing the two different basic jobs of high school mathematics: teaching those who continue their studies in mathematics and teaching those who are not academically minded. Every effort should be made to arouse the interest of able high school pupils in mathematics through segregation of them in honor classes, instruction of them by special methods, assignment to them of superior and enthusiastic teachers, and establishment of a comprehensive extra-curricular program in this field.

2. *Recruitment of teachers of mathematics*, by Mr. Joseph Jablonower, Board of Examiners, City of New York.

The shortage of teachers of mathematics and of students who are preparing to teach mathematics is already acute. With the increase in school population, and the depletion in the teaching ranks, we face a situation that calls for radical measures. Administration and boards of education have been yielding to the temptation of lowering requirements in professional preparation for teaching and reducing requirements as to knowledge of the subject.

Industries and educational foundations should be alerted to the needs of the situation and should get states and municipalities to recognize education as a major and indispensable industry. Industry and educational foundations need to work out wisely subventions that will assure trainees for the teaching of mathematics. Boards of education need to formulate salary schedules which will assure the competent teacher a scale of living respected by the community.

3. *What the colleges can do to recruit teachers of mathematics*, by Professor D. R. Davis, State Teachers College, Montclair, New Jersey.

Experience suggests the following measures to promote an effective program for the recruitment of teachers of mathematics: 1) provide a good mathematics curriculum, 2) recommend and treat teaching as a profession which requires a minimum of four years of college, 3) maintain a recruiting program among the high schools with the cooperation of local teachers and administrators, guidance personnel, college faculty representatives and college student representatives, 4) secure positive assistance from state and local organizations for scholarships, 5) picture carefully the advantages of the teaching profession, 6) give effective supervision to those doing practice teaching, 7) work for better salaries, buildings, equipment, and working conditions, 8) help direct

the efforts of all concerned toward elevating the teaching profession, that people may choose it because they feel it has dignity, purpose, meaning, and the respect and support of the public.

4. *Hilbert's fifth problem*, by Professor Leo Zippin, Queens College.

At the International Congress of Mathematicians, Paris 1900 (see *Göttinger Nachrichten* of that year) Hilbert proposed a number of distinct research programs, called problems. What we now know as the Fifth Problem (certain other questions having been forgotten) is the following: *is a locally-euclidean group necessarily isomorphic to a Lie group?* The last fifty years have witnessed the affirmative solution of this problem as part of the analysis of the structure of locally compact groups. The roll call of the names of those who made significant contribution to this larger problem is too long to be given here.

5. *How to do by arithmetic what you cannot do with the calculus*, by Professor M. G. Salvadori, School of Engineering, Columbia University, introduced by the Secretary.

The difficulties encountered in the analytical solution of problems of great practical importance leads the applied mathematician to the use of approximate solutions obtainable often by elementary arithmetical tools. The talk illustrated the application of numerical methods to a variety of linear problems.

E. MARIE HOVE, *Secretary*

THE APRIL MEETING OF THE MISSOURI SECTION

The annual spring meeting of the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held jointly with the Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics at the University of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, on April 22, 1955. Professor Maria Castellani, Chairman of the Section, presided at the morning session, and Reverend W. C. Doyle, Rockhurst College, presided at the afternoon session.

There were 45 persons in attendance, including the following 30 members of the Association:

John J. Andrews, S. Louise Beasley, C. A. Bridger, Maria Castellani, John F. Daly, W. C. Doyle, D. H. Erkiletian, Jr., C. V. Fronabarger, J. D. Haggard, Nola L. A. Haynes, F. F. Helton, N. Q. Hubbard, G. H. Jamison, C. A. Johnson, L. O. Jones, P. S. Jones, C. E. Kelley, P. G. Kirmser, S. L. Levy, F. H. Lloyd, Marie A. Moore, O. J. Peterson, L. E. Pummill, Lois J. Roper, J. S. Rosen, Robert Schatten, W. R. Scott, R. G. Smith, W. A. Vezeau, Margaret F. Willerding.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected for the coming year: Chairman, Professor Francis Regan, St. Louis University; Vice-Chairman, Professor H. D. Brunk, University of Missouri; Local Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Marie A. Moore, Harris Teachers College. Professor Margaret F. Willerding, Harris Teachers College, retained her position of Association Secretary for a fourth year.

The following program was presented at the morning session:

1. *The significance and derivation of the formula*, by Mr. N. Q. Hubbard, Lincoln High School, Kansas City.

The study of the formula covers an extensive field in the branches of mathematics. The re-