

Metro NY Section, MAA
Delegate Assembly
October 10, 2018

Present: Emad Alfar, Armen Baderian, Nadia Benakli, Thomas Cheung, Jennie D’Ambroise, Olen Dias, Johanna Franklin, Ben Gaines, Elena Goloubeva, Andrew Grossfield, Ezra Halleck, Boyan Kostadinov, Janet Liou-Mark, Abe Mantell, David Seppala-Holtzman, Gerald Singh, Satyanand Singh, Mutiara Sondjaja, and Johann Thiel

Absent: Randy Asher, Edgar DuCasse, Joseph Quartararo, Louis Quintas, and Alan Tucker

Chair’s Welcome (Janet Liou-Mark): Janet requested that all the officers check their names on the official list of officers, formally welcomed Ben Gaines as a Metro NExT coordinator, and led the meeting in introductions.

Section Governor’s report (Alan Tucker): Alan’s report was submitted in writing. His report expressed concern about MAA governance and the looming changes in the organization of the Joint Meetings.

Secretary’s report (Johanna Franklin): Johanna submitted the Section Report and Meeting Report for the year in June.

Treasurer’s report (Armen Baderian): Armen noted that there had only been about \$1500-\$2000 of subvention but that our funds were approximately the same as they were last year at this time. Abe asked how the Graph Theory Fund was used; Armen reported that it is intended for speaker’s travel expenses and honoraria for Graph Theory Day but that it is rarely used in practice. He also added that this fall, Graph Theory Day will be at Pace, and, next spring, at Nassau Community College, but that no dates were yet available.

Newsletter Editor’s report (Abraham Mantell): The section’s newsletter will only be published electronically again this year. The deadline for submissions will be February 1, 2019, and the call for articles will go out soon. The newsletter will certainly contain reports from the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Treasurer.

Webmaster’s report (Thomas Cheung): Thomas expressed a willingness to change the website upon request; all changes should be requested via e-mail and cc’ed to Janet and Satish. Elena thanked him for stepping up to take on the job this spring

Speakers Bureau Chair’s report (Abraham Mantell): Abe asked if anyone could think of a way to distribute information about the Speakers List to high schools effectively. We don’t have a contact list for them. Johanna suggested that her colleague David Wayne might be able to help, Tia mentioned a colleague who does high school outreach, Ben suggested trying Math Ed researchers, Olen suggested asking the people who coordinate math fairs, and Satish said he would look into his Brooklyn Tech connections. Elena asked if the list was up to date. When Abe

said it likely was not, she suggested that everyone present consider adding themselves to the list.

Spring 2019 meeting discussion:

Date and location: April 13, 2019, at City Tech. Janet has gotten approval for the meeting and the date. It was pointed out that traditionally, the meeting is the first weekend in May and that April 13 is the date of the NYSMATYC conference; Janet will investigate the possibility of holding the meeting on May 4 instead. The costs will include personnel to handle the AV needs and food, but the venue is free. Janet believes that we will have some internal sponsorship for those costs.

Conference committee: Emad Alfar, Armen Baderian, Nadia Benakli, Jennie D’Ambroise, Olen Dias, Johanna Franklin, Ben Gaines, Elena Goloubeva, Boyan Kostadinov, Chia-Ling Lin, Janet Liou-Mark (chair), Abe Mantell, David Seppala-Holtzman, Satyanand Singh, Mutiara Sondjaja, and Johann Thiel

Local conference committee: Sandie Han (chair), Holly Carley, Thomas Cheung, Brad Isaacson, Nadia Kennedy, Nan Li, Ariane Masuda, Arnavaz Taraporevala, Lin Zhou so far. Janet will ask more faculty from City Tech to join this committee.

Contributed papers committee (Boyan Kostadinov): Ezra Halleck, Nadia Benakli, Emad Alfar, and Chia-Ling Lin will assist Boyan. Boyan said that creating the program from the abstract submissions has been difficult in the past because presenters have submitted their abstracts in so many different forms. He suggested that the committee should require plaintext abstracts. Jennie said that the abstract submission form could be constructed to allow the abstracts to be imported directly into Google Docs. Boyan will do some research and then reconsider; perhaps some widget will make TeX submissions straightforward to handle, for instance.

Elena proposed limiting the number of contributed sessions to improve attendance at each one. Janet suggested that we have only four sessions but extend their lengths and perhaps cut the amount of time each presenter gets to 10 minutes rather than 15.

The deadline for contributed papers will be March 15, 2019. Janet needs the program in its final form by mid-April. The call for abstracts will go out in December.

Invited Speakers: Christina Sormani has accepted; Satyanand will check the date with her once it is confirmed. We are entitled to request a Polya lecturer this year. Other suggestions included

- Joseph Teran (UCLA), who spoke at the 2018 MathFest,
- Grant Sanderson, who makes animated math videos, and
- Sylvester “Jim” Gates, a physicist at Brown.

Janet requested that any further suggestions be sent to her by Friday, October 19.

Abe noted that at MathFest, it was suggested that we should confirm the date and invite speakers a year in advance.

Book exhibits (Nadia Benakli): Nadia has found it very difficult to convince publishers to attend the meeting and exhibit their products. Boyan suggested that we have a table to advertise open-source books.

Metro NExT report (Mutiara Sondjaja, Johann Thiel): Metro NExT ran a workshop in September with several sessions that was very well attended. There have not been many submissions for the Fellowship, so the deadline has been extended until October 31 to allow for wider advertisement.

Liaison Coordinator's report (Elena Goloubeva): The list has been updated over the summer. She feels that it is good to have multiple liaisons.

Student Activities Coordinator's report (David Seppala-Holtzman): David pointed out that he is the Student Activities Coordinator rather than the Student Chapter Coordinator since student chapters do not exist any more. He will send Janet proposals for activities for students attending the sectional meeting in the spring.

Bylaws (Elena Goloubeva): Elena suggests that we request permission from the national organization to approve the new bylaws through e-voting. Abe said that we need to give members bylaws a month before general meeting and send out a draft approved by MAA, but that there is no rush. Elena will send a copy of the bylaws out in about a month, first to Janet and Satish.

Future sectional meeting: Janet expressed the hope that SUNY – Old Westbury will host our sectional meeting in 2020.

Award committees: Emad, David, and Johanna agreed to serve on the committee for the Distinguished Teaching Award, and Satish, Abe, and Elena agreed to serve on the committee for the Distinguished Service Award.

AMS/MAA issues re: the Joint Meetings: Johanna presented the basic facts that the national organization has shared about the changes expected to take place in the structure of the Joint Meetings starting in 2022, when the MAA will no longer share responsibility with the AMS for its organization. Quite a lot is unknown, including whether MAA members will still receive a registration discount and the extent to which MAA programming will still exist at the meetings. There has also been concern over the effect on MAA governance given that many MAA members may not be able to afford to attend both the JMM and MathFest. Further points raised included the future of the Employment Center and how much JMM programming was currently organized by the MAA. Some present suggested that we should wait to see what decisions the MAA makes; others felt that that would rob us of our chance to give input on the matter.

Those present voted unanimously to consider sending a formal letter to the national organization on behalf of the section in response to this news. The committee to draft such a letter consists of Janet, Elena, Jennie, and Johanna.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna Franklin