

THE NEBRASKA-SOUTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA SECTION
OF THE
MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
(original name: The Nebraska Section)
Compiled in April 2015



In 1972 the MAA produced a publication called THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA: ITS FIRST FIFTY YEARS, edited by Kenneth O. May.

As mentioned on page 18, THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL MONTHLY was founded by Benjamin Finkel in 1894. He published it himself until 1913, and Nebraska played a role in the change of publishers (page 19):

In the summer of 1912 Finkel discussed with Slaughter the probability that the printer, A. S. Dixon of Springfield, could not continue his personal and low cost services to the MONTHLY. As a result Slaughter enlisted help from Florian Cajori at Colorado College and E. R. Hedrick of the University of Missouri. The Universities of Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Indiana, and Iowa provided help and editorial representatives W. H. Bussey, W. C. Brenke, C. H. Ashton, R. D. Carmichael, and R. P. Baker beginning with volume 20 for 1913. Colorado, Michigan, Northwestern and Washington Universities and Oberlin College also cooperated.

Here is another excerpt, from pages 92-93:

1924 NEBRASKA

The first meeting was held March 14, 1924 at Lincoln [MONTHLY 31, 370-371]. On May 2, 1924 the newly formed section met with the Mathematics-Physics Section of the Nebraska Academy of Science. This indicates that perhaps the Mathematics-Science Section of the Academy pre-dated the Section of the Association. There were seventeen charter members, with Professor W. C. Brenke of the State University serving as the first Chairman and Emma E. Hawthorn the Secretary-Treasurer.

Nine papers were given at this first meeting, eight of them on pure or applied mathematics with only one related to teaching, the title being "An Example of the Value of Diophantine Analysis to the Teacher in the Secondary School." It was presented by A. E. Campbell from Omaha Technical High.

The close tie with the Academy of Science until 1965 is revealed in the original By-laws. Under the section on Meetings it is stated that "there shall be one regular annual meeting at the time of the meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Science, and such other meetings as may be arranged by the executive committee." In 1965 the section on meetings includes the provision for one annual meeting per year but no reference to the Academy.

The By-laws 1924-1965 restrict the membership to residents of Nebraska, eligible for membership in the Association, whereas the 1965 By-Laws extend the eligibility to those members of the Association who reside in territory not included in any Section and who notify the Section Secretary that they wish to be members of this Section.

The section on Name and Purpose indicates that the extended territory is intended to be certain named counties in South Dakota.

That publication referenced an article from the AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL MONTHLY. Here it is, from pages 370-371 of volume 31:

A meeting for the purpose of organizing a Nebraska Section of the Association was held at Lincoln March 14, 1924. Miss Emma Hanthorn of the State Teachers College at Kearney presided. After a brief discussion by Dr. W. C. Brenke of the State University outlining the history and purposes of the Association, and the policy of the MONTHLY, an executive committee was chosen to draw up the by-laws.

The newly formed section was called to meet jointly with the Mathematics-Physics Section of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences which met at Creighton College, Omaha, May 2, 1924. The Executive Committee presented the by-laws which were adopted and signed by the following charter members:

Harriet Anderson, Grand Island College; W. C. Brenke, University of Nebraska; A. L. Candy, University of Nebraska; A. R. Congdon, University of Nebraska; M. G. Gaba, University of Nebraska; Emma E. Hanthorn, Kearney Teachers College; Mary F. Jackson, Lincoln High School; Nellie M. Johnston, Gibbon High School; Stella B. Kirker, Lincoln High School; E. P. Martinson, University of Nebraska; R. M. McDill, Hastings College; J. E. Opp, University of Nebraska; T. A. Pierce, University of Nebraska; T. I. Porter, University of Omaha; W. T. Rigge, Creighton University; C. R. Sherer, University of Nebraska.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman—W. C. BRENKE; Secretary-Treasurer—EMMA E. HANTHORN; Member Executive Committee—R. M. MCDILL.

Papers read at the first annual meeting of the Nebraska Section of the Mathematical Association of America, meeting jointly with the Mathematics-Physics Section of the Academy of Sciences, with W. C. Brenke presiding, were as follows:

- (1) "A function approximating the least root of an equation," Prof. T. A. PIERCE, University of Nebraska. (By title.)
- (2) "The expansion of the cube root of an integer into a continued fraction," Mr. A. E. ANDERSON, University of Nebraska.
- (3) "Some problems in geometry," Prof. M. G. GABA, University of Nebraska.
- (4) "Two problems," Prof. R. M. MCDILL, Hastings College.
- (5) "A compound harmonic motion machine," (illustrated) Prof. W. H. RIGGE, Creighton University.
- (6) "An angle connected with the mean anomaly in elliptic orbits," Prof. W. C. BRENKE, University of Nebraska.
- (7) "An explicit solution for a general congruence with prime modulus," Prof. PIERCE. (By title.)
- (8) "A space transformation," Mr. E. P. MARTINSON, University of Nebraska.
- (9) "An example of the value of Diophantine analysis to the teacher in the secondary school," Mr. A. E. CAMPBELL, Omaha Technical High School.

EMMA E. HANTHORN, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Section has produced a newsletter in most years, and many years had two newsletters, one in the spring just before the April meeting and one in the fall looking ahead to the next meeting. Our archives have most of the newsletters from 1979 to the present. Here are some notes and highlights from those newsletters.

In the 1970s and 1980s the newsletter was full of reports of various types:

Meeting program	Abstracts of presented papers
Notes on activities of the members	News of the Section
Report of the Secretary-Treasurer	News from the campuses
Report of the Nebraska-South Dakota High School Math Contest or the Wayne State College Math Contest	Message from the Section Chairman Message from the Section Governor Problems Section

The Friday night banquet was sometimes held in the home of the meeting chairman (the term in use at that time).

Several times an application for MAA membership was included in the newsletter.

The 1987 newsletter contained a historical listing of the meeting locations and officers of the Section since the founding of the Section in 1924. The same newsletter mentioned that Henry Cox was stepping down as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Section after 30 years of service in that position.

Some newsletters had information or advertising about programs from the national MAA office—for example, in 1981 the spring issue had an advertisement for the MAA Placement Test Program, and in the fall issue the Governor's Report mentions MAWIS, which stood for Mathematics At Work In Society, a program designed to show students in grades 8 through 10 how mathematics is used in various careers and thus encourage them to take more mathematics courses in school.

Some familiar names were new to the Section, according to the 1989 newsletter: Jose Flores at the University of South Dakota, David Cooke at Hastings College, Glenn Ledder at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and John Fuelberth at Wayne State College.

Several of the spring meetings had panel discussions as part of the program. Some of the topics were:

- The publication Everybody Counts—1990
- Teaching mathematics with computer technology—1991
- Computers and calculators in the classroom: good, bad, or ugly—1995
- Distance learning—1998
- Assessment issues—1999
- The education of K–12 teachers—2000

There was frequent discussion of the use of technology: The late 1980s and early 1990s saw greater power in and increased use of computers and calculators in and out of the classroom. This was reflected in quite a few talks during those years on ways to use new technology successfully in various courses. In addition, the Governor's Report in the 1992 newsletter included this statement approved by the Board of Governors:

Electronic communication (such as electronic mail, electronic bulletin boards, electronic conferencing, remote file transfer, etc.) has become an essential and much used service in the professional life of mathematicians. The MAA urges that convenient access to electronic communication services be provided by every academic institution to the mathematicians they employ.

As a final note on changing technology, the University of Nebraska-Omaha reported in 1993 that the programs in Mathematics and Computer Science would split into separate departments beginning on January 1, 1994.

The bylaws of the Section were updated in 1973, 1994, and 2012. There was a proposed update in 1971, which was not adopted. It would have changed the name of the Section to the Nebraska/Southeast South Dakota Section and substituted "chairperson" or "president" for "chairman." The 1973 update, which was adopted, kept the Nebraska Section name and kept the title "chairman" for the meeting organizer. The name was officially changed to the Nebraska/Southeast South Dakota Section, which had been used unofficially for quite a few years, in 1994. This update also put "chair" in place of "chairman" and listed the Newsletter Editor as an officer of the Section.

The plenary speaker for the 2001 meeting at Doane College was artist Dick Termes, who is internationally known for his paintings of three-dimensional looking scenes on the surfaces of spheres. This began a string of speakers on the intersection of art and mathematics, continuing at least until 2007, when Jonathon Rogness from the Geometry Center at the University of Minnesota was one of the (three!) invited speakers.

Lastly, those who attended the 2006 meeting at Dana College remember their rides on a Segway scooter after the banquet.

Listing of the locations of meetings and names of leaders the Section since its founding in 1924.

Nebraska-Southeast South Dakota Section of the Mathematical Association of America

<u>Year</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Governor</u>	<u>Newsletter</u>
2016	Concordia University				
2015	Wayne State College	Jennifer Langdon	Tami Worner	Jennifer Langdon	Jim Carlson
2014	Nebraska Wesleyan Un.	Melissa Erdmann	Tami Worner	Pari Ford	Jim Carlson
2013	Joint meeting with Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville	Jim Carlson	Tami Worner	Pari Ford	Jim Carlson
2012	Midland Lutheran College	Ming Huang	Tami Worner	Pari Ford	Jim Carlson
2011	Un. of Nebraska-Kearney	Pari Ford	Tami Worner	Mark Sand	Jim Carlson
2010	Un. of South Dakota	Dan van Puersem	Tami Worner	Mark Sand	Jim Carlson
2009	Hastings College	John Schneider	Tami Worner	Mark Sand	Jim Carlson
2008	Wayne State College	Jeff Bauer	Tami Worner	Chris Masters	Jim Carlson
2007	Dakota State Un.	Rich Avery	Tami Worner	Chris Masters	Jim Carlson
2006	Dana College	Mark Sand	Tami Worner	Chris Masters	Richard Barlow
2005	Un. of Nebraska-Lincoln	Steve Dunbar	Tami Worner	John Fuelberth	Richard Barlow
2004	Un. of Nebraska-Kearney	Barton Willis	Randall Heckman	John Fuelberth	Richard Barlow
2003	Un. of South Dakota	Curtis Olson	Randall Heckman	John Fuelberth	Richard Barlow
2002	Creighton University	Jim Carlson	Randall Heckman	Richard Barlow	Richard Barlow
2001	Doane College	Chris Masters	Randall Heckman	Richard Barlow	
2000	Nebraska Wesleyan Un.	William McClung	Randall Heckman	Richard Barlow	
1999	Hastings College	David Cooke			
1998	Wayne State College	John Fuelberth			
1997	Wayne State College	John Fuelberth (meeting cancelled due to snow)			

Year	Meeting Location	Chair	Secretary	V.Chair	Governor	HS Contest
1996	Un. of Nebraska-Kearney	Richard Barlow				
1995	Creighton University	Jim Carlson				
1994	Lincoln	Kramer				
1993	Vermillion	Woerner	Wampler	Kramer	Mehaffey	
1992	Hastings	E. Behrens	Wampler	Woerner	Mehaffey	Vogt
1991	Lincoln	Chivakula	Wampler	E. Behrens	Mehaffey	Vogt
1990	Omaha	From	Halfar	Chivakula	Heckman	Vogt
1989	Crete	Masters	Halfar	From	Heckman	Vogt
1988	Kearney	Pickens	Halfar	Masters	Heckman	Vogt
1987	Lincoln	Wampler	Cox	Pickens	Skoug	Barlow
1986	Vermillion	Mehaffey	Cox	Wampler	Skoug	Barlow
1985	Hastings	Behrens	Cox	Mehaffey	Skoug	Barlow
1984	Lincoln	Peterson	Cox	Behrens	Johnson	Barlow
1983	Omaha	Karloff	Cox	Peterson	Johnson	Barlow
1982	Kearney	Heckman	Cox	Karloff	Johnson	Barlow
1981	Vermillion	Mehaffey	Cox	Heckman	Meisters	Luke
1980	Crete	Gross	Cox	Mehaffey	Meisters	Luke
1979	Lincoln	Shores	Cox	Gross	Meisters	Luke
1978	Omaha	Haeder	Cox	Shores	Gross	Luke
1977	Lincoln	Luke	Cox	Haeder	Gross	Stephens
1976	Kearney	Larsen	Cox	Luke	Gross	Stephens
1975	Lincoln	Johnson	Cox	Larsen	Haeder	Stephens
1974	Vermillion	Gutzman	Cox	Johnson	Haeder	Warden
1973	Lincoln	Thornton	Cox	*Haeder	Haeder	Warden
1972	Omaha	Haeder	Cox	*Skoug	Mientka	Buchalter
1971	Lincoln	Skoug	Cox	*Wampler	Mientka	Buchalter
1970	Lincoln	Wampler	Cox	*Mesner	Mientka	Buchalter

Year	Meeting Location	Chair	Secretary	V.Chair	Governor	HS Contest
1969	Lincoln	Mesner	Cox	*Zechmann	Miller	Earl
1968	Lincoln	Zechmann	Cox	*Ekman	Miller	Earl
1967	Vermillion	Frick	Cox	*Sharp	Miller	Earl
1966	Lincoln	Sharp	Cox	*Schneider	Jackson	Earl
1965	Lincoln	Schneider	Cox	*Hunzeker	Jackson	Earl
1964	Lincoln	Hunzeker	Cox	*Meintka	Jackson	Earl
1963	Lincoln	Rygg	Cox	*Mientka	Halfar	Earl
1962	Lincoln	Mientka	Cox	*Moenter	Halfar	Earl
1961	Lincoln	Moenter	Cox	*Miller	Halfar	Earl
1960	Lincoln	Miller	Cox	*Wampler	Leavitt	Earl
1959	Lincoln	Wampler	Cox	*Halfar	Leavitt	Earl
1958	Lincoln	Halfar	Cox	*Earl	Leavitt	Halfar
1957	Lincoln	Earl	Cox	Jackson	Basoco	
1956	Lincoln	Lowry	Halfar	*Jackson	Basoco	
1955	Lincoln	Jackson	Halfar	*Camp	Basoco	
1954	Omaha	Camp	Halfar	*Becker	Earl	
1953	Lincoln	Becker	Halfar	*Leavitt	Earl	
1952	Lincoln	Leavitt	Halfar	*Dansky	Earl	
1951	Lincoln	Dansky	Runge	*Gass	Camp	
1950	Lincoln	Gass	Runge	*Rice	Camp	
1949	Lincoln	Rice	Runge	*Cox	Camp	
1948	Lincoln	Cox	Runge	*Hull	Hull	
1947	Lincoln	Hull	Runge	*Harper	Hull	
1946	Omaha	Harper	Runge	Dwyer	Hull	
1945	no meeting	Basoco	Runge	Earl		
1944	Lincoln	Dwyer	Runge	Earl		
1943	Lincoln	Basoco	Runge	Berry		
1942	Omaha	Earl	Runge	Harper		

Year	Meeting Location	Chair	Secretary	V.Chair	Governor	HS Contest
1941	Lincoln	Candy	Runge	*Bettinger		
1940	Omaha	Bettinger	Runge	Earl		
1939	Lincoln	Brenke	Pierce	Earl		
1938	Hastings	McDill	Pierce	Sanders		
1937	Lincoln	Camp	Pierce	Earl		
1936	Lincoln	Howie	Pierce	McDill		
1935	Lincoln	Candy	Howie	*Earl		
1934	Crete	Earl	Hill	Howie		
1933	Lincoln	Pierce	Hill	Howie		
1932	Omaha	Bettinger	Hill	Howie		
1931	Lincoln	Flood	Hill	Howie		
1930	Peru	---	---	---	---	---
1929	Lincoln	Feemster	Frankish	Howie		
1928	Fremont	Brenke	Frankish	Feemster		
1927	Lincoln	Brenke	Frankish	Howie		
1926	Lincoln	Brenke	Hanthorn	McDill		
1925	Lincoln	Brenke	Hanthorn	McDill		
1924	Omaha	Brenke	Hanthorn	McDill		