

MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
NEW JERSEY SECTION

REPORT OF THE CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE MathFest 2018

Thomas Hagedorn

MathFest 2018 MAA Congress Report

The MAA Congress held an all-day meeting on August 1st in Denver, Colorado at MathFest 2018. The Congress now meets once a year on the day before MathFest. There will be additional activities and discussions conducted electronically throughout the year.

The Congress representatives heard from MAA leadership, especially MAA President Deanna Haunsperger, Chair of MAA Congress Su Dorée, Executive Director Michael Pearson, and current and incoming MAA Deputy Executive Directors Doug Ensley and Rachel Levy about the MAA's current programs. Notable items discussed were:

- The approval of the MAA's list of core values: community, inclusivity, communications, and teaching and learning.
- The many overlapping "circles" that make up the MAA community. These include the American Mathematical Competitions, meetings, publications, and professional development.
- Ways to increase the interactions between the MAA sections and the 17 MAA SIGMAAs. Suggestions included providing information to the sections about SIGMAA membership and providing a brief introduction to each SIGMAA at section meetings.
- The MAA has a Zoom license that can be used by sections to set up communication via Zoom meetings; contact Rachel Levy for more information.
- MAA thinking on how to improve as a national organization for new career mathematicians: About one-third of the applicants for Project NExT are turned down. The Early Career Mentoring (ECM) program is a response. Sections can do this very well; no one is turned away from MAA sections.
- Programs of Note: CoMInDs (equipping faculty for the professional development of graduate student instructors), PIC Math (preparing for industrial careers in math), and StatPREP (training 2-year college instructors to use data-centered methods to teach intro stats). The MAA provides numerous grants and curriculum resources.
Check out: <https://www.maa.org/programs-and-communities>

There was a standing ovation for outgoing Deputy Executive Director Doug Ensley.

There was also an extensive discussion on the list of expectations and tasks for MAA Congress representatives. The list is under development with expectations to be finished over the next year.

The MAA ended up with a budget surplus of \$673,000 in 2017. This was due to three factors: changes in publications including a one-time influx of funds from the AMS for our book deal and ongoing income from Taylor & Francis for journals, unexpected gift donations, and the financial wisdom of MAA staff.

There was an open mic discussion on how the Congress and the Board of Directors communicate. There were also discussions on how to include more voices on the MAA Congress. In addition to the Section Representatives and the elected MAA leadership, the MAA Congress has members appointed that represent various MAA constituencies such as the Business and Industry group, and traditionally underrepresented groups.

The members also discussed what they needed to know to be an informed member of MAA Congress and discussed plans for year-round work for the Congress.

The MAA Congress also elected officers. Jason Douma was elected Vice-Chair of the Congress and James Alvarez was elected MAA Officer-at-large. The term of MAA Congress chair Su Dorée runs for another year, and the Congress will elect a new chair in August 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Hagedorn, MAA Congress Representative, New Jersey Section