MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
NEW JERSEY SECTION

Governor's Report from Mathfest July 2003

Reginald Luke

I had the opportunity to attend my first MAA Board of Governors meeting at MathFest 2003 in Boulder, Colorado, on July 29, 2003, as your newly elected sectional governor representing New Jersey. I currently serve on several boards so procedures and protocols were not unfamiliar, but I was duly impressed by the magnitude and diversity of the MAA organization. Assisting the national executive were over 100 committees dealing with publications, awards, competitions, conference preparations and various projects, such as Project NExT for orienting new mathematics doctorates to teaching and PREP for professional enhancement activities for faculty. Several of our sectional members serve on some of these committees, such as Barbara Osofsky on the AMS-MAA Program Committee for the Phoenix January Meeting 2004. Also our section has two Project NExT Fellows: Marlena Herman at Rowan U and Mika Munakata at Montclair State U.

The financial health of the MAA is very good, as attested by several audits. Revenues have been growing from increased membership and publication sales. A major donation of $3 million dollars was given to the organization by the Paul Halmos family. Part of this gift will be used to renovate the Carriage House into a conference center at the Washington, D.C. headquarters. New staff members have been hired, for example, to assist in conference logistics. The results for the election of national MAA officers were announced: Carl Cowen - President-Elect, Barbara Faires - First Vice President, and Jean Bee Chan - Second Vice President. We thank our local entry and previous sectional Governor, Amy Cowen, for making a valiant but unsuccessful attempt for a national position. We wish her well in her dedication to the organization. Awards for certificates of meritorious service, as well as the appointments of national lecturers and editors for the MAA journals were all approved. For example, Peter Sarnak of Princeton University was named the 2004 Hedrick Lecturer, and Alan Schoenfeld of UC Berkeley was installed as the Leitzel Lecturer for MathFest 2004. At the 2003 International Mathematics Olympiad in Toyko, Japan, the USA student team achieved 4 gold medals and 2 silver and placed third after Bulgaria and China. Six recommendations from the Committee in Undergraduate Program of Mathematics (CUPM) were also approved.

At the MAA Business Meeting at MathFest 2003 on August 1st, several new Bylaw changes were adopted by the general membership, including the following: to require governors to have individual rather than just institutional membership; to allow a governor to have proxy representation by a previous governor in case of absence at a Board meeting; to allow the Board to set rates for retired members, similar to what is done for all other constituencies, rather than have this fixed in the Bylaws; to allow for electronic voting rather than printed ballots. In the discussion of this last Bylaw change, Bonnie Gold, MAA-NJ member, initiated an amendment that preserved the write-in candidate space on the electronic ballot, which was successively adopted.

The NJ Section was actively represented at the MathFest 2003 Contributed or Invited Paper Sessions by presentations (titles in italics) from following sectional members:

- Bonnie Gold (Monmouth University), *Directed Discussion in the Philosophy of Mathematics*

- Brian Hopkins (St. Peter's College), *Internet Tools for Modern Algebra*
- Patricia Kenschaft (Montclair State University) *How Much is a Billion?*
- Richard Kuntz (Monmouth University), *A Web-based Practice and Testing System*
- Javid Namazi (Fairleigh Dickinson University), *A Problem on Optimizing of Composite Membranes*
- Revathi Narasimhan (Kean University), *Creating Interactive Spreadsheet Modules for Precalculus and Beyond.*

Making the trek from NJ to the CO mountains and giving student presentations for MAA and Pi Mu Epsilon were: Vincent Berardi (St. Peter's College - NJ Epsilon), Chaos ; James Jessup (Seton Hall University - NJ Delta), The Isometric Inequality ; and Derek Pop (Seton Hall University - NJ Delta), Bifurcations of the Henon Map.

Reginald Luke, Middlesex County College