

MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA NEW JERSEY SECTION

Report of the Governor

Fall 2006

Pat Kenschaft

Governor's Report from Mathfest 2006

MathFest in Knoxville was a lively one, with our fair share of NJ MAA members attending and presenting.

It was my first Board of Governor's since 1987-93, when I attended as an observer who was the first chair of the Committee on Participation of Women, and I was pleased to notice two changes. (1) The MAA is on MUCH better financial footing. My first public Board statement was to express appreciation for this to John Kennelly, who was elected treasurer shortly thereafter, (2) There seems to be more acceptance of women in the MAA. People still alive and not too elderly (by my standards) remember when the MAA Board of Governors was all male.

There were appeals for Governors to recruit for all 17 national MAA committees. The investment committee needs people with skills and experienced in investing. When I attended 15 years ago, the MAA was contemplating selling all its Washington real estate to make ends meet. Now it has three buildings to promote mathematics in an historic section of Washington. The two main buildings which are about a century old. The Carriage House behind, which is somewhat older, is being renovated (thanks to Paul and Virginia Halmos) to be a math conference center for conferences up to 60 people. Applications welcome. It is hoped this will be a new revenue stream for the MAA.

In general, the national MAA is less dependent on dues than it was, not because we have fewer members, but because there are other sources of finances. It has had close to 100% success in grant proposals. Sources of funding tend to come out of the membership. Share your ideas!

The MAA is using its location to lobby more. We were urged to urge members to get in touch with their Congresspeople and ask for better support of mathematics and mathematics education. The most effective messages to Congress come from constituents. The MAA is also running TV spots. Ideas for such spots are welcome; Carl Pomerance and president-elect Joe Gallian are eager to hear them. If you see MAA spots running, let someone know.

There are three major posts to be filled at the MAA. Anyone interested? Jim Tattersall has resigned as Associate Director for meetings. He coordinates the national meetings. Don Albers is retiring as Associate Director for publications. And Michael Pearson is looking for an Associate Director for student issues, a program that is "drowning in programs."

All the publications are looking for reviewers. The new CMJ editor said that most of his reviewers were elderly or dead. One wrote back a reply to his request for an review, "I gave that up when I turned 90." Email the editor of your favorite math journal and offer to review; your inquiry will be welcome. The *Monthly* is the math journal with the largest circulation in the world. *Mathematics Magazine* is second and the *College Mathematics Journal* is third.

First VP Carl Pomerance, who will be with us at our fall meeting, is leading a long-term self-evaluation. The first cycle is well along. It includes a study of (1) professional development, (2) teacher education, and (3) revenue. Cycle two is beginning, including a study of students (high school through graduate school) and governance. We had break-out sessions on governance.

We were also asked to recruit for the committees that grant awards. If you are interested, get in touch with Martha Siegel.

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