

MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
NEW JERSEY SECTION

REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR

FALL 2008

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An appeal was made at MathFest 2008 to tell new officers of the information available on the MAA website. Math Reviews has reviews of 4,352 books posted and is now open to everyone. The Math Classified website offers both faculty positions and leads for undergraduates. The MONTHLY website already gets 200,000 hits per month.

The national MAA is now studying sections, and how we can strengthen the bond between section members and the national organization. One suggestion was that section newsletters should list members of the section who are on national committees.

National is willing and able to send emails (announcements or more) to all members of the section and can also send an email to only the department representatives. It can also host section websites, avoiding transition problems when the webmaster changes. It can facilitate joint meetings, and help sections obtain speakers.

Individual section situations were discussed in focus groups. Missouri has agreed to pay the costs of being a governor beyond the \$600 subsidized by national. (The costs can be significantly more.) The Pacific Northwest governor said they include more land area than the continuous 48 states, and transportation costs to section meetings are a major problem. Florida's governor expressed concern that they have no interaction with Puerto Rican members in the Florida/Puerto Rico section.

About ten percent of MAA members do not live in the United States. There are about 1000 in Western Europe, so organizing a section there might be possible. Should we rearrange the sections so they are more nearly equal in membership? One has fewer than 170 members and another about 1700. New Jersey has about 800, so we probably wouldn't be affected by these discussions.

The United States' team had just returned from the International Mathematics Olympiad in Madrid where we placed third. China placed first and Russia second. Two teams of four girls each will attend the Chinese Girls' Mathematical Olympiad in August.

About 1400 people were registered at MathFest, about 1000 of them mathematicians and the others students, teachers, and guests. There were many children, a great change from 20 years ago. I enjoyed one three-week-old who came from New Mexico. The program was rich; the only problem was making decisions about which of several simultaneous appealing sessions to attend. Personally, I enjoyed both MathFest and Madison enormously.