Governor's Report from Mathfest 2015
Board of Governors Meeting – August 4, 2015

The MAA celebrated its centennial at Mathfest in Washington, D.C., with over 2500 participants in attendance, smashing the record for the largest Mathfest ever.

It was announced that the U.S. team consisting of six students won first place at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) held this past June in Thailand. Five of the six students earned gold medals. The last time that the U.S. placed first was 21 years ago. It was also announced that there were two female winners at this year’s USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO).

The MAA continues to run annual deficits, but declining each year. This is due to declining memberships, which is a trend among all professional societies, and also because the MAA has stopped giving free teaser memberships. Revenue from publications has been flat even though JSTOR access to the Monthly publication is very strong. But JSTOR access is mostly through institutional consortiums and not individual memberships.

Jennifer Quinn, chair of MAA’s Governance and Communication task force, presented three models of governance to replace MAA’s current model. All models call for establishing a small executive board that would manage MAA’s finances and programs and two of the models include a larger general assembly (similar to the current Board of Governors) that would handle policy. A motion was passed to recommend to the task force that any proposed model consist of both a board AND assembly.

The MAA centennial fundraising efforts have totaled $5 million towards its $7 million goal. The MAA River of Bricks at the Carriage House continues to be available for $303 per brick.

Some recommendations that were discussed to increase MAA memberships include providing member-only benefits such as an exam questions repository for instructors (with like-and-share features) that was proposed by MAA President Francis Su and a tiered membership fee structure. There was discussion about joint memberships with AMS and SIAM, something that has been considered in the past, but this idea was deemed impracticable due to financial hurdles.

Respectfully submitted,

Hieu Nguyen,
Governor of MAA-NJ Section