

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
SCHOOL OF MINES  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

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Mathematical Association of America  
Editor  
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Rebekka Struik  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
Department of Mathematics  
Campus Box 426  
Boulder, CO 80309

Dear Rebekka:

Thank you for your reply and your suggestions for the next meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section of the MAA. You have some good ideas and I believe that we all can benefit from them. Secondly, it's gratifying to know that someone actually reads all that material that I send out.

I am sending copies of your letter and my reply to you to Carl Kerns at Mesa College and Major Hughes at the Air Force Academy. Normally, we have an Executive Committee meeting by conference phone call in November and your ideas are topics that should be discussed.

You are indeed correct that most of our meetings have been primarily staffed by contributed papers. I can only recall one or two meetings in the past where we've had a significant number of invited addresses. We have tried on several occasions to have invited addresses, but it is difficult to get people to commit. We don't have funds to bring in people from outside, so we usually focus on people in the immediate area. The National MAA does provide a speaker who is normally a national officer. This is where we get our banquet address and usually one major address. But as you know, our travel is so high and our budgets are so limited that we have refrained from paying to bring anyone in from outside.

Personnally, I think that we have alot of talent in the area as was evidenced by some excellent invited addresses at Colorado State. I believe there are people at many of our institutions who are excellent speakers and who have something worthwhile to say. I would encourage you in your efforts and ask that you work closely with Major Hughes to identify four, five or six major addresses. I think that our meeting would benefit from this.

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I believe that we should explore a firm deadline for contributed papers. I hesitate to discourage contributed papers, and I don't believe that we should get into the mode of refereeing, accepting, or refusing. I know that some of the contributed papers in the past haven't been the greatest but some have been very good and on the whole I think we benefit from the contributed papers. I know that you didn't recommend a curtailment of contributed papers, but I thought this was an appropriate place for me to state my views.

It's going to be a pleasure working with you, Rebekka. You have good ideas and an enthusiasm that will make all of our jobs a lot easier. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Ballew  
Secretary - Treasurer  
Rocky Mountain Section  
Mathematical Association of America

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cc: Carl Kerns  
Major George Hughes