

Bill,

Here's the letter, hope it works and orry for the mix-up in communications. I'm also having trouble sending it e-mail because they are improving service at Metro and the Vax is not available.

Tom Kelley

Message from the Section Chair

The 1993 - 1994 school year is almost half over. I have just a few thoughts to share before we become totally submerged in the throes of giving and grading finals. As chair of the section I feel that I'm responsible for keeping the "day-to-day" operations moving (at least sporadically), for listening to the membership throughout the section (this will take good ears because our section is quite well spread out), and for trying to start any new initiatives or projects which seem "right" for the section to undertake.

As far as the day-to-day operations are concerned our big items are the planning for the April, 1994, Spring Meetings at the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City, South Dakota and the publication of the Section Newsletter. The first is in the capable hands of Don Teets and his colleagues at S.D.S.M. and from all communications things are proceeding well and the attendees will be treated to an excellent meeting.

The second item is under the care of Bill Ramaley at Ft. Lewis College in Durango and you can see the fruits of his labor before you. In my mind Bill's position is the most demanding and time consuming of the Section's elected positions - thanks for your time and efforts, Bill.

With two large chunks of the Section business taken care of that leaves the second task open for me - that of listening to what Section members have to say. Besides the mail and the telephone remember that most of us have access to e-mail (actually this is just a guess, for some people "access" might mean on their desktop and for others it might mean at some remote location on campus). I'd recommend making use of whatever means you have at hand if you need to contact any section officer. My e-mail address is "kelley@zeno.mscd.edu" and I try to check my e-mail once a day.

In the past we've had department contacts/ reps for our section and I would be interested in verifying and updating those of you who are still interested in doing that. We also have members who are not faculty at colleges and we need to figure out a way to stay in touch with them. If you have any thoughts or ideas on this please send them our way. Perhaps at the Spring meetings we'll be able to put something a little more formal in place.

One of the items that department reps can help us with are the nominations for the Outstanding Teacher/Distinguished Service award for the section. In the past we've not had many nominations to consider for the award, yet we know there are many deserving faculty within our section. Perhaps if we had a person at each school to place someone's name in nomination we would have more candidates for this award. Finally, on the Student Chapter front I think I have an idea for an on-going chapter "focus". I recommend that you encourage your students to use their e-mail capability to communicate with other math students around the country. In order to start that process at MSCD I talked the computer folks into giving the Metro Math Club a student account on the Vax and we can be reached at "mathclub@zeno.mscd.edu". By all means if you have students who like to use the e-mail please have them get in touch with us.

It's probably not for everybody, but anything that increases our communication should be tried.