

InterSection MAA

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MAA SECTION OFFICERS

Welcome to the first issue of InterSection, the newsletter for MAA Section Officers! The Committee on Sections hopes to publish an issue several times a year, to solicit and share ideas among Sections, to discuss policy, and to remind you of deadlines. Please share with all the officers of your Section.

Reach Out...

A focus of the Committee on Sections this year has been outreach in the Sections to others – to other MAA groups, to K-12 students and teachers, to grad students, to community college faculty, to other professional organizations. Much of the discussion at Section Officers Meetings, both at the Joint Meetings and at MathFest, has been devoted to that topic.

At MathFest 2015, Deanna Haunsperger, Chair of the Council on Outreach, met with the Section Officers and provided us with a set of discussion questions which we answered in small groups. A summary of all responses may be found under [section resources](#) on the MAA web page.

At MathFest this summer in Columbus, we will explore Sections' use of the MAA/Departmental Liaison Program and the interaction between Sections and SIGMAAs. Please join us – to share your experiences and to learn from others.

How BIG is your Section?

Many members of the MAA – and possibly many members of your Section – are employed as mathematicians in Business, Industry, or Government. Are BIG mathematicians involved in your Section meetings? At the Section Officers Meeting at MathFest 2015, Greg Coxson, chair of the MAA Committee on BIG, led a discussion on that topic. Section meetings, he pointed out, can be a valuable resource for those members, as they are convenient, relatively inexpensive, interesting and fun. Identifying and inviting BIG mathematicians in your area can lead to a mutually beneficial relationship: For the non-academic mathematician, Section meetings offer an opportunity to network, to meet and work with other mathematicians, to find young, bright students who might be interested in a BIG career. For the Section, these new members can bring new ideas and activities to our meetings. Consider identifying and inviting a BIG representative to your next Section meeting to:

- Give a contributed paper.
- Serve on a career panel.
- Develop a career workshop.
- Lead a lunch table discussion.
- Staff a public affairs table at the meeting.

A copy of Coxson's talk, and a list of the follow-up discussion questions, is available on the [section resources](#) page. You might also be interested in the MAA's new [PIC Math](#) (Preparation for Industrial Careers in Mathematical Sciences) program.

AWM in the Sections

Thanks to a recent agreement between the Committee on Sections and the Association for Women in Mathematics, your Section will soon have the opportunity to work with a liaison from the AWM. That organization hopes to support women in mathematics at the local level by increasing opportunities for women to meet and build community, specifically by participating in MAA Section meetings. The liaison will work with your executive committee to find the most appropriate ways to explore this partnership, but some possible contributions include:

- Host a lunch table for discussion about AWM
- Organize a contributed paper session
- Submit a list of potential invited speakers
- Plan events for AWM student chapters.

Three Sections – EPaDel, MD-DC-VA, and SoCal/Nev – have held AWM lunch sessions at recent meetings as part of a pilot program, and they were well-received. We believe that this collaboration has the potential to increase participation at our Section meetings and to attract new members both to the MAA and to AWM.

A committee is currently working to identify liaisons and will contact you with the name of your partner. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact the committee, in care of Magnhild Lien (mlien@awm-math.org).

The Cost of Meetings

Holding a Section meeting at a college or university is becoming more and more complicated. Section officers may be asked to fill out legal forms, provide proof of liability insurance, or pay for the use of facilities. In a recent survey, Section chairs shared experiences and advice.

For questions about insurance or sales tax, please contact MAA Chief Financial Officer Sharon Tryon (stryon@maa.org or 202-319-8485). She is our expert and is more than happy to help you understand and comply with institutional requests.

As for paying a fee for the use of classrooms and other facilities, here are some suggestions for getting at least a little financial relief:

- Inquire about fees when you are choosing a meeting site. Get something in writing.
- Start negotiations early – and not with the conference office. See the next item.
- Make friends in high places! Talk to a dean or department chair who understands that hosting a Section meeting benefits the institution and is good publicity.
- Ask the Math Department at the local institution, rather than the Section, to reserve the rooms.

For all of the survey results, and more suggestions, see the [section resources](#) page on the MAA website.

Important Dates: 2016

June 1: The name and a photo of your Section's Teaching Award Winner, to programs@maa.org

June 15: Section meetings reports due.

<http://tinyurl.com/zvs5wde>

June 25: Section annual report due.

<http://tinyurl.com/j5vg6hf>

August 3-6: MathFest, Columbus, OH.

<http://www.maa.org/meetings/mathfest>

Thursday, August 4th, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Section Officers Meeting

Teaching Awards

A happy moment at many spring meetings is the announcement of that year's **Section Teaching Award Winner** – a colleague who is widely recognized as extraordinarily successful in his or her teaching. The Section also has the opportunity each spring to nominate a member for the Association's Deborah and Franklin Tepper **Haimo Award** for Distinguished College or University Teaching. The link between those two awards has been adjusted in recent years to allow Sections to put together a complete nomination packet before the Haimo deadline, resulting in some confusion. A quick description of the two programs:

The Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics
(<http://www.maa.org/programs/maa-awards/teaching-awards/section-award>)

Each year, every Section of the MAA is invited to select a college or university teacher to be honored with its Section Teaching Award. A suggested procedure for the selection process is contained in the Call for Nominations template online; you are welcome to modify the procedure and the deadlines, as long as you can get the name and a photo of your winner to the MAA by June 1.

Early in February of this year, the Committee on Sections wrote to each Section secretary, asking for the name of this year's winner and reminding them how to get an official certificate from the MAA Secretary. Many thanks to those Sections who have responded – and a quick reminder for those who have not. If this doesn't ring a bell, please contact Betty Mayfield (mayfield@hood.edu).

The Section award winners are always featured in the August/September issue of *MAA FOCUS*; that is why we need the name and a photo of your colleague by **June 1st**. You may email those items to programs@maa.org, making it clear which Section you represent.

Your Section's Haimo Award Nominee
(<http://www.maa.org/programs/maa-awards/teaching-awards/haimo-award-distinguished-teaching>)

Every year, each Section of the Association is also invited to nominate one of its members for the MAA Haimo Award. Nominations should be sent to secretary@maa.org, together with the documentation described on the MAA web site, by **March 1**. The section nominee may be the current recipient of the Section Award for Distinguished Teaching or a previous recipient of such an award. (The previous award may have been awarded by a section other than the one submitting the current nomination.)

Bottom line: Two awards, two deadlines.

There is lots of information on the web site about each award; follow the links above. If you have questions, please contact programs@maa.org.

InterSection is published by the MAA's Committee on Sections. If you have suggestions for articles that you would like to see, or ideas you would like to share with other sections, please contact Committee Chair Betty Mayfield (mayfield@hood.edu) or newsletter editor Benjamin V.C. Collins (collinbe@uwplatt.edu).

Committee on Sections, 2015-2016

The Committee's job is to "support and coordinate activities of the Sections and advise the Board on all matters related to Sections." Let us know how we can help your Section be more successful.

Name	Position	Term Begins	Term Ends
Elizabeth Mayfield	Chair	2/01/2015	1/31/2018
Karen Sue Briggs	Member	1/01/2016	1/31/2019
Ximena Catepillan	Member	1/01/2015	1/31/2018
Benjamin V.C. Collins	Member	1/01/2015	1/31/2018
James E Conklin	Member	1/01/2016	1/31/2019
Wiebke S Diestelkamp	Member	1/01/2015	1/31/2018
Mark A Fitch	Member	1/01/2016	1/31/2019
Leslie B Horton	Member	1/01/2014	1/31/2017
Daniel J Hrozencik	Member	2/01/2014	1/31/2017
Joel liams	Member	2/01/2016	1/31/2019
Edward C Keppelmann	Member	1/01/2014	1/31/2017
Michael J Mears	Member	2/01/2014	1/31/2017
Jason Molitierno	Member	2/01/2014	1/31/2017

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