Governor's report, February 2016

At the beginning of January, I attended the Board of Governors' meeting, held in Seattle right before the annual Joint Mathematics meetings.

MAA membership is up, largely because of a big increase in student members, now that Departmental memberships include an unlimited number of student memberships. There was some discussion of how to convert those student members into regular members when they finish their degrees.

The association ran in the red again last year. We had sufficient reserves to cover the deficit, but still, this can't continue indefinitely. More members would help, so suggest your colleagues join!

Of course, to get more members we have to meet the needs of the membership. Some of the ideas that were brought up include more ways for people to participate in conferences electronically. Travel is expensive and fewer institutions are covering travel for faculty. Would you be interested in an all-electronic conference? Another suggestion was more professional development workshops (either electronic or in-person). Is that something you would find valuable? What else can MAA do to add value for you and your colleagues?

The major item we discussed was a re-organization of the governance of MAA. The current Board is very large, which makes some sorts of decisions difficult. The proposed system would have a council with representation from all the sections and some at-large members for various special interests, rather like the current Board of Governors. A smaller board, including the officers and some members chosen by the council, would have fiduciary responsibility.

The original proposal left the council as purely advisory, but some of us were able to change that so that strategic planning for MAA and approving proposed by-law changes before they are presented to the membership would stay with the council.

These changes in governance structure will come to the membership for a vote before they are implemented.

Remember! If you have ideas of how MAA can better serve its members, let me know!

Bill Stone
Governor, SW section
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The 2016 MAA Southwest Sectional, ArizMATYC, and AATM "Mathematics in the Mountains" Spring Conference

You're Invited!

The Southwest Region of MAA and ArizMATYC invite you to Flagstaff, Arizona this spring for our joint regional conference on April 8 & 9, 2016. The Conference will be hosted at Coconino Community College's Lone Tree Campus, offering beautifully wooded surroundings and vistas unique to Flagstaff, Arizona. The conference will run 8:00am – 4:30pm on Friday April 8 and 8:00am – 11:30am on Saturday April 9.

At the base of the San Francisco Peaks and an elevation of 7000 feet, Flagstaff is the perfect location for a spring getaway. Flagstaff offers numerous hiking and biking trails in the area, is a one and a half hour drive from the Grand Canyon National Park, minutes from three other national parks, 40 minutes from Sedona, and an hour from Meteor Crater.

In addition to the conference, we are pleased to invite you to attend the conference banquet with guest speaker Betty Mayfield, current First Vice-President of the MAA and Professor and Director of the M.S. in Mathematics Education Program at Hood College, in Frederick, Maryland, as she presents "*Gerbert d'Aurillac and the March of Spain: A Guy in the Right Place at the Right Time.*" The banquet will be held Friday night, April 8, at 6pm, at the prestigious High Country Conference Center on the north campus of Northern Arizona University. Enjoy a three-course meal featuring chicken marsala, seared mahi mahi, or vegetarian tart and a cash bar.

Lodging is available at several hotels in the Flagstaff area, with special conference pricing available at the Drury Inn on NAU's Mountain Campus, the Courtyard Marriott of Flagstaff, and the DoubleTree Hotel of Flagstaff.

We are currently accepting submissions for presenters and presiders. Presenting will provide you with an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with mathematics colleagues throughout the Southwest. Presiding is an excellent way to support our presenters and play a key role in making the conference run efficiently and smoothly.

The conference will feature presentations given by some of the best mathematicians, researchers, and educators from across the region. Concurrent sessions and engaging exhibits will allow conference attendees to experience and engage with current findings in all fields of mathematics and the latest research-based methods of teaching and learning mathematics. *Graduate and undergraduate students are strongly encouraged to attend and present!*

For more information, to register, and to submit a proposal to present/preside, please visit the conference website at: http://arizmatyc.org/wp/spring-2016-joint-arizmatyc-and-maa-southwest-conference/ or contact the MAA conference chairs, Shannon Guerrero (Shannon.guerrero@nau.edu) or Brian Beaudrie (brian.beaudrie@nau.edu)

Hosted by:

San Juan College

The Discovery Festival this year was held on October 16th and 17th at the Farmington Convention Center at McGee Park and was a smashing success. Matt Bell represented the San Juan College School of Science, Math and Engineering with a booth on Golf and Mathematics. Local area students were tasked with hitting a golf ball then determining what the horizontal displacement (distance) of the golf ball would be based on launch conditions. They also did other fun activities such as determining the volume of a golf ball as well as estimating the number of dimples on its surface. At the end of the festival, the School of Science, Math and Engineering was awarded the Discovery Festival Math Award which was decided by an independent panel of judges from Albuquerque.

- Matt Bell

Note: Matt plans to present at the Spring Conference on "Golf and Mathematics". Come hear more about it!

New Mexico Note

Alicia O'Brien from San Juan College has been collaborating with New Mexico Higher Ed and Complete College America to research current co-requisite, common numbering, and meta-major practices among New Mexico's colleges and universities with the intention of bringing meta-majors and common numbering policies to scale statewide. Her previous work with Math Pathways in New Mexico will further help to inform policy implementation. For more information, contact Alicia at obriena@sanjuancollege.edu

Math Humor

A dozen, a gross, and a score,

Plus three times the square root of four,

Divided by 7,

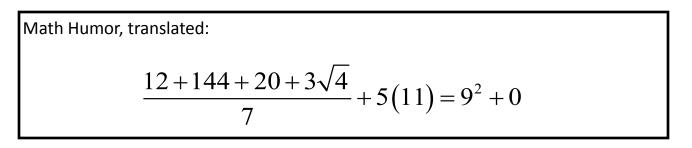Plus five times eleven,

Equals nine squared and nothing more!

(For the equation, see page 4!)

Pima College

On October 23, 2015, Pima Community College in Southern Arizona hosted the tenth annual Pima Community College Mathematics Competition for high school students. The college hosted 15 schools with 22 teams of 6 students (7 schools brought 2 teams.) A record number of 132 students participated. University High School took 1st, BASIS Tucson North took 2nd, the Sonoran Science Academy took 3rd, Salpointe Catholic took 4th, and Tanque Verde High School took 5th place. Pima Community College partnered with Math League for the event. This partnership provides access for students to the state and national tournaments with 38 students qualifying for the Arizona state tournament in May.

In the last 10 years, Pima Community College has hosted 44 Southern Arizona high schools, coming from as far as Ajo, Willcox, and Yuma, and has included participation from over 1000 young and eager mathematicians. Many of the teams at the recent tournament are new, formed specifically to participate in this event. With their first tournament underway, the new math coaches were given guidance (and a packet!) on how they can better prepare their students for future math tournaments. Over the last decade, the PCC Mathematics Competition has spurred the development of similar tournaments for high schools, as well as middle schools and elementary schools, in Southern Arizona. Ten years ago the PCC Mathematics Competition was the only math tournament in Tucson; This year there are 8 scheduled math tournaments. The Pima mathematics faculty members continue to do their part in working with the community to engage high school students for a 21st Century college education.

- Diane C. Lussier

Math Humor, translated:

$$\frac{12+144+20+3\sqrt{4}}{7}+5(11)=9^2+0$$