

**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
of the Wisconsin Section of the MAA
UW-Baraboo/Sauk County
January 30, 2015**

Present: Kavita Bhatia, Mark Snavelly, Ken Jewell, Jonathan Kane, McKenzie Lamb, Eric Eager, Ben Collins, Laura Schmidt

Thomas Drucker, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 3:59 PM.

Jay Beder joined the meeting from Milwaukee via Skype to discuss possible changes to the Wisconsin Math Contest. In particular, should the contest move to an electronic distribution method which would result in a large cost savings to the section? This would likely coincide with a restructuring of the fee schedule. Also suggested was the possibility of discontinuing the contest altogether in light of the fact that the number of students participating has declined steadily over the last 40 years dropping ten-fold in just that last 20 years. Jay Beder, Laura Schmidt, and Jonathan Kane will work as a committee to survey participating schools to estimate the effect of any changes and come up with a recommendation to be discussed at the section business meeting on April 25, 2015.

The minutes of the Executive Committee's September 18, 2014 meeting were approved with one correction.

David Scott joined the meeting to discuss the upcoming section meeting on April 24-25 which will be held at Ripon College. The invited speakers will be Jim Daniel, the MAA speaker, David Bressoud from Macalester College, and Ben Collins who will make a presentation about the history of the Wisconsin Section.

Jonathan Kane, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report and suggested that the section make another donation to Wisconsin NExT which is nearly out of money. It was agreed to transfer \$500 to Wisconsin NExT. After a short discussion it was decided that with the current low interest rates, it did not make sense at this time to pursue investing the section's money in an interest bearing account.

Two new applications for the section teaching award have been received, but one was for a current Executive Committee member. It was suggested that there is a section rule preventing Executive Committee members from receiving the teaching award, but this rule does not currently appear as one of the section rules posted on the section website. This prompted a discussion about whether the section should do a thorough review of all rules and policies so that those in effect can be properly documented. The application for the current Executive Committee member was withdrawn in light of the fact that others in recent memory were subject to the rule which may or may not still be in effect. There are two recent teaching award nominees who did not receive the award but should also be considered for the award in 2015. This leaves three potential award winners. A committee of Ken Jewell, Jonathan Kane, and Kavita Bhatia will select an award winner from the three nominees.

Mark Snavelly, Section Governor, presented the Governor's Report. Mark attended the Board of Governors meeting at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio earlier in January. The MAA again will not have a balance budget in 2015, but they do expect one in 2016. A greater emphasis on book sales will help. There has been a restructuring of the Institutional Membership to the MAA. In particular, the dues structure is changing and will depend only on a department's size. It will come with one regular membership and as many student membership as the institution wishes to give out. The MAA is pressing sections to include special MAA Centennial activities at their section meetings.

Jonathan Kane suggested that the section hold a poster contest for students in the section. Posters would be judged at the section meeting and book awards would be given to winning entries. Jon and student activities coordinator, McKenzie Lamb, will prepare contest rules and advertising for the contest. Books left over from the MAA book exhibits can be used as prizes. McKenzie said that there would be a Face Off competition and a student activities room at the section meeting. Faculty are encouraged to bring students to the meeting; the Ripon students will be ready to welcome them.

Eric Eager gave the Wisconsin Project NExT report. They held a fall workshop at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County that included 8 participants and two outside speakers. The hope is that as Eric obtains more contacts, the attendance at future workshops will increase. The Wisconsin NExT faculty have formed a closely knit group who have been using Google Groups for keeping in touch.

Ben Collins requests that reports for the spring newsletter be sent to him as soon as possible. Ben has several names lined up for the next few *Know Your Wisconsin Mathematician* articles, but no interviews have been conducted yet.

Laura Schmidt gave the contest report. One Wisconsin student received a perfect score on the 2014 AMC 8 exam. There were two perfect scores on the 2014 Wisconsin Math Contest.

Jennifer Kosiak, was not able to attend today's meeting but did submit her WMC report. In particular, the next WMC Executive Board meeting will include selecting a replacement for Jennifer as the WMC representative on the Executive Committee. The annual Green Lake meeting will be held May 6-8, 2015. All MAA Wisconsin Section members are invited to attend the WMC Calculus Summit March 27, 2015. Registration is now open for the WMC's Middle School and High School Math Contests. Rules and registration can be found at <http://www.wismath.org/contests>. The registration deadline is February 16, 2015, and the contest runs March 2-6, 2015.

Jennifer Szydlik from UW-Oshkosh has agreed to run for the next Chair-elect position.

There are two weekends in April 2016 being considered for the 2016 section meeting at UW-LaCrosse. The hope is that Erica Flapin will be able to be the Polya Lecturer at that meeting, and she is available on only two weekends that month.

Thank you to Kirthi Premadasa who arrange for our meeting room at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jonathan Kane
Secretary/Treasurer