PRESENT: Jennifer Szydlik (Chair), Kirthi Premadasa, Mark Snively, Kavita Bhatia (via Skype), Jonathan Kane, Laura Schmidt, McKenzie Lamb, Wendy Meyer, Eric Eager, Ben Collins, Gabriella Pinter (via Skype), Holly Attenborough, Matthew Corne

Chair, Jennifer Szydlik, called the meeting to order at 4:07.

Agenda approved with one change. The minutes from the September 30, 2016 meeting were approved.

Jonathan Kane presented the Treasurer’s report. In 2016 the profit made from the spring meeting was offset by losses at the Project NExT workshop and the Math Contest, so there was an overall loss of funds for the year, but the section remains in excellent financial health.

A motion to transfer $1000 from general funds to the Project NExT funds passed.

Mark Snively delivered the LAST Governor’s report. The MAA will abolish the Board of Governors and instead have a congress of representatives. The daily operations will be handled by a smaller Executive Board. The USA will host the 2021 International Mathematics Olympiad. This is the first year in quite a while that the financial outlook for the MAA looks positive. The organization is transitioning from one that made most of its revenue from print journals to one supported by memberships, corporate alliances, and book publications. The MAA Committee on Sections will review section by-laws to suggest editorial changes that will be necessary now that there is no longer a Board of Governors.

Kirthi Premadasa discussed the progress in planning the spring meeting to be held at UW – Milwaukee on April 21 and 22. The local host, Gabriella Pinter, joined the meeting via Skype. The Saturday sessions of the meeting will be held in rooms of the Mathematics Department at UW – Milwaukee, but there were not rooms of adequate size for all of the Friday activities, especially for a traditional sit-down banquet. The solution is to either (1) move the Friday activities to the Continuing Education rooms with the disadvantage of having to rent rooms from Continuing Education, or (2) hold the Friday activities in the Mathematics Department but replace the sit-down banquet with a stand-up reception with the disadvantage that the food would be more expensive and the stand-up reception might be viewed by participants as inadequate for their dinner. After considerable discussion, the Executive Committee decided that instead of offering the traditional banquet, they would recommend participants to take advantage of the many restaurants in the vicinity of the UW – Milwaukee campus. We would have a fancier than usual reception following the Friday afternoon plenary talk and before the FACE-OFF competition. Teaching awards and FACE-OFF awards would be presented at the conclusion of the FACE-OFF competition before participants left for dinner. It was also decided that the time schedule for the Friday program be moved 30 minutes earlier, and the scheduled after-dinner talk would be moved to 9
AM on Saturday with some of the Saturday program being moved 30 minutes later. There would be no banquet tickets sold but the cost of non-student meeting registrations would all increase by $10.

Ben Collins asks that newsletter reports by sent to him by Friday February 3. Kirthi will provide the names of invited speakers for the spring meeting.

Kavita Bhatia announced that there is one nomination for section teaching award. A committee made up of Kavita (chair) with Kirthi and one other previous teaching award winner, to be chosen, will review the nominee’s application and handle the creation of an award plaque.

Laura Schmidt said that there were 552 students taking the AMC 8 in November which was down from 959 last year. There was 1 perfect score by Jay Cai, grade 8 at Hamilton. The average score in Wisconsin was 9.8, higher than national average. Students from 45 schools participated in the Wisconsin Math Contest in December, but due to a new on line reporting form, report results were not yet available. UW – Milwaukee has agreed to host the contest for its fifth year next year.

Eric Eager spoke about the Project NExT workshop held last fall in Baraboo. Eric is stepping down as Project NExT Coordinator and will be replaced by Co-Coordinators Holly Attenborough and Matthew Corne.

Wendy Meyer reported about the activities of the Wisconsin Math Council. The annual Green Lake meeting will be May 3 – 5 featuring Dillon William from the UK. The state math contest will be held the first week of March for middle and high school students.

The Executive Committee seeks a new student activities coordinator. Election of the first section representative to the MAA Congress of Representatives will be conducted this spring by the MAA. Nominations are also sought for the next section Chair-elect.

The Committee reviewed and approved the document Kavita prepared listing the duties of section Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18.

Respectfully Submitted By
Jonathan Kane
Secretary/Treasurer