

MAA Wisconsin Section Executive Committee Meeting

UW-Baraboo/Sauk County
January 19, 2018

Present: Irfan Ul-Haq, Kirthi Premadasa, Jennifer Szydluk, Jonathan Kane, Clare Hemenway, Wendy Meyer, Holly Attenborough, Matthew Corne (via Skype), Ben Collins

Chair Kirthi Premadasa called meeting to order at 4:10 PM. The proposed agenda was briefly discussed and approved.

Jonathan Kane presented the minutes of the September 22, 2017 Executive Committee meeting. Minor corrections included changing "Wisconsin Project NExT" to its new name "Section NExT." The minutes were approved.

Jonathan Kane presented the Treasurer's Report. Again, "Project NExT" was changed to "Section NExT."

Section Representative, Clare Hemenway, reported on the meeting of the MAA Congress which met on January 9, 2018 in San Diego, the day before the start of the Joint Mathematics Meetings. The MAA will no longer be sponsoring representatives' travel to the Joint Meetings, but the January meeting of the Congress will be shortened and take place during the Joint Meetings rather than the day before. Stipends for representatives attending MathFest will be increased from \$500 to \$600.

There were many changes at the MAA in 2017. The Instructional practices guide came out in December. Members are encouraged to download this easy-to-read document from <https://www.maa.org/programs-and-communities/curriculum%20resources/instructional-practices-guide>.

All MAA publishing will now be done by American Mathematical Society. The MAA will still control the content, but having the AMS handle the printing saves the MAA money. Another money-saving move is to begin holding more MAA Committee meetings electronically.

The main focus of the Congress meeting was MAA membership. Departmental memberships are being encouraged as a way of bringing more students into the MAA, and members are encouraged to tell colleagues about the advantages of MAA membership.

Although the MAA Congress has not determined what its members should be called, the Wisconsin Section will refer to its member as Representative.

Ben Collins asks that reports for the spring newsletter be sent to him by February 5. The Executive Committee made several suggestions for future "Know Your Wisconsin Mathematician" interviews.

Ben also reported on the Section Officer's Meeting held at the Joint Meetings. The group discussed many techniques to encourage members to attend Section Meetings. There was a suggestion that the Wisconsin Section solicit nominations for awards and committee positions at the registration table at the Section Meeting.

Irfan Ulhaq spoke about the progress in planning the 2018 Spring Section Meeting. The three invited speakers will be Amy Parrott from UW – Oshkosh, winner of the 2017 Wisconsin Section Teaching Award; Jennifer Quin from the University of Washington Tacoma; and MAA President Deanna Haunsperger from Carlton College. Chris Ahrendt and Nicole Owen are the local hosts at UW – Eau Claire. They have arranged for rooms at two area hotels and may arrange for other hotels. There are plenty of classrooms available for talks at the meeting. Refreshments will be provided for Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Preregistration for the meeting will cost \$30 for MAA members, \$40 for non-members, \$20 for high school teachers and retired members, and \$0 for students. Onsite registration for non-students will be \$40. The banquet will cost \$20 for adults and \$5 for students. The meeting will coincide with student undergraduate research presentations at UW – Eau Claire, so many mathematics students will be able to present their work at the meeting.

There was a discussion of a possible invited speaker for 2019.

Jennifer Szydlik said that there was one nomination for the Section Distinguished Teaching Award. After approval of the application, Kirthi will write a letter of congratulations and Jen will present a plaque to the winner.

Student Contests Coordinator, Laura Schmidt, could not attend the meeting, but she submitted her report giving the results of the 2017 AMC 8 competition and the Wisconsin MAA Contest. There were more schools participating in the section contest this year, but there were fewer students overall. Thank you to UW – Milwaukee which has run this contest for the last five years, and thank you to UW – Platteville which has volunteered to conduct the contest beginning in 2018.

Student Activities Coordinator, Pandiyan Balamurugan, has come up with several ideas for interesting undergraduate student activities at the Spring Meeting.

Jonathan Kane announced that a nominee has been chosen for the MAA Meritorious Service Award.

Holly Attenborough and Matthew Corne reported on the Section NExT Fall Workshop which had eight attendees, five of whom were first-time participants. One problem was that the workshop conflicted with a Pi-Mu-Epsilon event. The Spring Meeting Section NExT topic will be undergraduate research.

Wendy Meyer reported on the Wisconsin Mathematics Council (WMC) which will hold its 50th anniversary conference, May 2 – 4. They have started a Mathchat at #wismath. They will hold a middle school and high school state math contest in March.

Jonathan Kane will run for another term as Secretary/Treasurer. There was some discussion of possible nominees for the Chair-Elect position.

Jennifer Szydlik suggested that the Section investigate the rapid drop in the number of students in mathematics education programs in the state. Jon, Clare, and Irfan will serve on a committee with Jen as chair to look into this topic and possibly conduct a survey. Jen will organize a panel discussion of this topic at the Spring Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By
Jonathan Kane
Secretary/Treasurer