

# **MAA Wisconsin Section Executive Committee Meeting**

UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Friday, January 25, 2019

Present: Irfan Ul-Haq, Kseniya Fuhrman, Clare Hemenway, Kirthi Permadasa, Jonathan Kane (via Skype), Balamurugan Pandiyan, Matthew Corne (via Skype), Wesley Hough, Ben Collins

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM by chair Irfan Ul-Haq. The proposed meeting agenda was approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Jonathan Kane presented the minutes of the September 28, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. The minutes were approved.

Jonathan Kane then presented the Treasurers Report. He has not heard about income or expenses for the 2018 Wisconsin MAA Math Contest now being run out of UW – Platteville coordinated by Kevin Haertzen. Kevin will have to communicate with Jon to straighten out these finances. The fall Section NExT Workshop expenses exactly matched the workshop income. The MAA subvention check for 2018 arrived late, partly due to setting up a new bill-paying system the MAA Headquarters is now using. The current balance in the Wisconsin Section account is right in line with amounts in recent years, about \$8500. The Treasures Report was approved.

Section Representative Clare Hemenway reported about news from MAA Headquarters. The MAA will be pulling organizational and financial support for the January Joint Mathematics Meetings after the 2021 meeting. Instead, they will direct those resources into communities such as the Sections and the SIGMAAs and concentrate their efforts on MathFest.

Chair-elect Kseniya Fuhrman reported progress for the April 2019 Section meeting at Carthage College. The three invited speakers will be

- Frederic Ancel, UW – Milwaukee Professor Emeritus, will speak at 4 PM on Friday
- Michael Dorff, MAA President and MAA meeting visitor, will speak after the banquet
- Erica Flapan, editor-in-chief of the AMS Notices, will speak on Saturday

Several talk proposals have been submitted, and a preliminary schedule will be available after the March 1 proposal deadline. Carthage College has reserved all the necessary lecture rooms, space for registration and book sales, a meeting room for Section NExT, and a student meeting room. Hotels have been reserved, and parking has been arranged.

Carthage College is working on local teacher awards. Still to be done is finding a space for FACE-OFF and contacting book publishers. There was a discussion about refreshments and printing.

Public Information Officer Ben Collins requests that all reports for the spring newsletter be submitted by February 9. The next *Know Your Wisconsin Mathematician* candidate is Fe Evangelista from UW – Whitewater.

Ben Collins also reported on the Section Officers Meeting held at the JMM in Baltimore. The main items discussed were the MAA's pullout from the JMM and the new MAA-Connect higher logic platform that will allow sharing of documents and list services. The MAA would like to hear our ideas about how to increase participation in MAA. What could we do differently if we only had a little money from MAA? In particular, the MAA asks what information we as a section need so that we can reach out to our section members better. For example, membership in the SIGMAs might be of some use. Interestingly, many sections not including Wisconsin have a majority of student members. MAA Communications Coordinator Kenyatta Malloy will head a diversity and focus day aimed at early stage underrepresented researchers in DC area. That program could come to Wisconsin if we had a venue. The MAA wishes to save money on printing by providing mobile versions of meeting programs. Of course, the UW System requires a copy of a meeting program to give reimbursement for travel, so a mobile link will not suffice. In response to an MAA suggestion, a committee of Ben Collins, Irfan Ul-Haq, and Balamurugan Pandiyan was formed to investigate the possibility of setting up a one- or two-day program for undergraduates interested in research. Finally, there was a warning about a scam where an e-mail was sent to some section treasurers asking them to pay an invoice.

Past-chair Kirthi Premadasa said that there was one nomination for the Section Teaching Award, Thomas Drucker from UW – Whitewater. The nomination will be complete once two letters of recommendation are sent to Kirthi.

Student Contests Coordinator Laura Schmidt was not at the meeting, but she submitted her report. The number of schools participating in the MAA Wisconsin Math Contest (45) was similar to past years, but the number of students (715) was down. Ben Collins pointed out that in 1983 the Executive Committee voted to discontinue the Math Contest, but this action was never taken. He wonders if it is time. Wisconsin students have outperformed the national average on the AMC 8 by achieving a mean score of 9.08 as compared with the national average of 8.08. The AMC 10/12 contest will take place February 7 and 13. The MAA wants to broaden participation in MAA competitions. MathCounts continues to be more popular than AMC 8 which has a reputation of being more challenging.

Student Activities Coordinator Balamurugan Pandiyan is making arrangements for student activities at the Section Meeting. He hopes to provide a book award to student contest winners at section meeting. The Section can provide up to \$100 for awards with the number of awards depending on participation.

Section NExT Codirector Matthew Corne said that Wesley Hough of UW – Whitewater will be the new codirector of Section NExT. Wesley was also a national Project NExT fellow.

The only Executive Committee position needing replacement this year is the Chair-elect. There should be a form available at the Spring Meeting for people to make suggestions for future nominations.

Clare Hemenway suggested that the post from MAA leadership should be discussed at the meeting. In this post there were many questions, and it was decided not to send a collective response, but that if any committee member wished, they could send a response on their own.

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jonathan Kane (with help from Clare Hemenway)  
Secretary/Treasurer