

MAA Wisconsin Section

Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 24, 2021
via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order at 11 AM by Section Chair, Kseniya Fuhrman. The meeting was held online. The minutes of the April 25, 2020 business meeting were approved.

Secretary/Treasurer, Jonathan Kane, presented the Treasurers Report. There were relatively few financial transactions in the section in the past year due to the pandemic and the cancellation of the 2020 spring meeting. Most of the transactions concerned the Wisconsin Mathematics Contest. The section decided to move another \$1000 from its general funds to the Math Contest funds.

The Section elections were held. Chunping Xie of Milwaukee School of Engineering was the only candidate for the Chair-Elect position. He was elected by unanimous vote. Chunping will serve one year as Chair-Elect followed by one year as Chair and one year as Past-Chair. Jonathan Kane of the University of Wisconsin – Madison was the only candidate for the Secretary/Treasurer position. He was elected by unanimous vote. This will be Jonathan's fourth term as Secretary/Treasurer. The term is for three years.

Laura Schmidt is stepping down as Math Contest Coordinator, and the section seeks volunteers for this appointed position. Laura discussed the duties of the position which include writing three reports each year concerning the American Mathematics Contest data provided by the AMC and the overseeing of the Wisconsin Math Contest run by host school the first week in December. UW – Platteville is the current contest host. The Math Contest Coordinator is a Section Executive Committee member. Balamurugan Pandiyan has been reappointed as student activities coordinator.

There have been no volunteers yet to host the 2022 Section Meeting. Both UW – Stout and UW – Whitewater have expressed interest in hosting a meeting in the near future, but due to uncertainty of the pandemic, no

institution seems willing to commit to holding a conference in 2022. If no host steps forward soon, the meeting in 2022 will again be held virtually.

Lisa Marano from West Chester University was MAA Section Visitor and commented about her observations of our Wisconsin Section Meeting. In particular, she likes the way the section highlights speakers who are members of Section NExT and that student speakers have faculty sponsors. She noted the collegiality and kindness shown at our business meetings and pointed out that our contest coordinator's connection to AMC was not done by other sections.

Section Representative, Thomas Drucker, presented a report about MAA activities. It began by highlighting the MAA Mission and Vision statements. It noted the main aims of the MAA including MAA Connect for keeping members in touch with the MAA and each other, the Section NExT programs, the revision of the section speaker programs, the AMC, new member benefits, and MAA Awards. This year MathFest becomes the national MAA meeting as it will no longer be a sponsor of the Joint Mathematics Meetings. MAA Membership categories now include life members and retired members. MAA publications (now handled by the American Mathematical Society) include MAA FOCUS. Departmental memberships make it easy to grant student memberships, and graduating students will now get a discount for first couple years after graduation. In addition to section visitors, each section will now be eligible for speakers from the Polya Lecture Series, the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) series, and the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) series on a three-year rotating schedule.

Student Contests Coordinator, Laura Schmidt, delivered the Student Contest Report. There was lower participation in the AMC contests this year, but for the sixth year in a row, Wisconsin students ranked higher than the national average in the AMC 8 contest, but Wisconsin students ranked lower than the national average in the AMC 10/12 contests. The state had three qualifiers for the USA(J)MO.

Student Activities Coordinator, Balamurugan Pandiyan, delivered the Student Activities Report. In spite of being virtual, the Section Meeting included a Missing Values Contest for the 29 students registered for the meeting. Four students are participating in this contest. Bala suggested that there be a virtual math club for undergraduate students from around the state.

Section NExT Wisconsin Director, Wesley Hough, delivered the Section NExT Report. There was a fall conference held virtually via WebEx Meetings attended by 15 Section NExT faculty. Jessica O'Shaughnessy gave the keynote presentation, and there were 4 member presentations. This spring there was a Section NExT meeting on February 20 featuring a three-person panel discussion about virtual teaching. There will be a fall 2021 conference that will likely be virtual and perhaps another panel in the spring. Wesley is looking for a Co-director for Section NExT.

Public Information Officer, Ben Collins, lead a discussion of the proposed changes to the Wisconsin MAA-WI Bylaws. The changes have been recommended by the Bylaws Committee consisting of Ben Collins, Wesley Hough, Clare Hemenway, and Jonathan Kane. The proposed changes were approved and will now be forwarded to the MAA for suggestions. The Section will give final approval next spring before going before the MAA Board of Directors.

Jennifer Szydlik presented a letter addressed to Wisconsin Governor, Tony Evers, regarding Mathematics Teacher Preparation in Wisconsin. A motion to have the MAA Wisconsin Section support this letter passed.

Thank you to Ben Collins as he steps down from serving as Public Information Officer for the last 15 years, to Ken Price who has served as Chair-Elect for two years and now becomes the Section Chair, to Laura Schmidt who is stepping down as Student Contest Coordinator, and to Irfan Ul-Haq who is completing his term as Past-Chair. Welcome to the new Chair-Elect, Chunping Xie, and to Kseniya Fuhrman who begins a year as Past-Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Kane
Secretary/Treasurer