

Minutes
MAA Section Officers Meeting
2:30 – 5:00 P.M., Friday, August 3, 2007
Crystal Ballroom, Fairmont Hotel
San Jose, California

Welcome and Introductions, Participants' Roster:

After everyone enjoyed some refreshments and meeting with other section officers, Nancy Hagelgans, Chair of the Committee on Sections, called the meeting to order at 2:40. She welcomed the section officers and visitors to the meeting. All present introduced themselves, and they signed a roster to signify attendance.

MAA President Joe Gallian greeted the section officers present and noted that this was the biggest ever MathFest. Tina Straley confirmed this, there were 1,300 preregistered participants plus an additional 200 Math/Biology participants.

The minutes of the January 2007 were distributed, since the participants at the Section Officers Meeting change from meeting to meeting; no formal approval of the minutes was needed. At this point, Martha Siegel commented that if anyone wanted to nominate a person for one of the MAA committees, they should send their nominations to Martha as soon as possible.

Reimbursement guidelines and forms can be found on the MAA web site at:
<http://www.maa.org/sections/expense-form.html>.

Updates and Comments:

Nancy Hagelgans (Nhogelgans@Ursinus.edu) commented on several issues that are important to section officers and on issues that the Committee on Sections has been discussing.

- Each section completes an Annual Section Report every spring and Nancy compiles these reports and posts the information on MAA Online. There are three reports generated, one is a narrative report with section highlights, another is a spread sheet with data from the annual section reports, and the third is a spread sheet listing section invited speakers with contact information.
- On MAA Online there are Guidelines for Section Officers (<http://www.maa.org/sections/guidelines/toc.html>). Nancy asked for suggestions on ways to improve these guidelines.
- Potential section speakers may be found three places:
 - Each section may have a Polya Lecturer speak once every five years. The national organization will support the Polya Lecturer's

visit to the section. To see the rotation schedule for the sections go to http://www.maa.org/sections/Polya_rotate.html.

- Every year the national organization will support one national officer to speak at each section meeting. To see the available speakers go to <http://www.maa.org/sections/NationalOfficersSpeakers.htm>. Joe Gallian offered to help find invited speakers.
- Also, sections may find speakers from the list of speakers given on the annual section reports. There is no national funding to support these speakers.

At this point, we split up into focus groups to discuss MAA section meetings. Nancy has compiled a list of questions for discussion, and will compile the results of these groups. These discussions will conclude at 4:00.

Section Issues and Information:

- Sharon Tryon, Director of Finance, told us that if a section received an IRS notice, we were to send that notice to her- do not respond to the IRS. The annual MAA IRS filing will now be done at headquarters. She also said she was there to help, if a section did not know how to handle something financial.
- Roseann Brown, Director of Information Services, asked us to look at the redesigned MAA web site, she welcomes comments on it. The MAA Journals are not online, if you subscribe to a journal, you can look at it online. Also, the MAA login to the secure information will soon be changed to make it easier for members to login – hopefully this will be completed by December. Since Hal Nesbitt has left MAA, e-mails that normally would have gone to Hal can be sent to Roseann at rbrown@maa.org.
- Ivars Peterson, Director of Publications for Journal and Communications, told us that there was something new on the MAA website every working day, such as short items about things happening in math, math in the media, and nay new book. If you have ideas for the web page, submit them to him, ipeterson@maa.org. Also, there is section information on the web page, the job bank will be expanding. A question was asked about where one can find programs from previous meetings. Ivars said that there are PDF files for Focus, and you can look in the appropriate Oct. or April issue for those programs.
- Carl Pomerance, 1st Vice President, told us that MAA is continuing with its strategic planning. The current working groups are Governance,

Students, and Membership (Carl is the chair of this group). If we have questions we may e-mail him.

Questions from the Annual Section Reports:

- Does the national office have a current email? Yes, one can login to MAA, go to organization, the staff and scroll to the end of the list.
- Why should section governors be allowed only one term? To help the newly elected governors there will be a 2-day workshop in Washington, DC at the carriage house.
- If a section is sponsoring a Section NExT fellow, why can't the section require that the fellow participate in the section? Because all NExT Fellow have some responsibilities, and a sponsored fellow should not have extra responsibilities
- What is the appropriate math content for the preparation of K-8 teachers, and can a section address this issue? (No answer given)
- Can credit cards be used for online payment of section meetings? It would be too expensive for the Washington office to accept credit card payments for sectional meetings. Some sections use web registration and have the participants either pay at the meeting or mail in the payment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Peeples
Secretary, MAA Committee on Sections