

Minutes
MAA Section Officers Meeting
2:30 – 5:00 P.M., Friday, January 5, 2007
Mardi Gras Ballroom D, New Orleans Marriott
New Orleans, Louisiana

Welcome and Introductions, Participants' Roster:

The first few minutes of the meeting were spent enjoying refreshments and conversation. At 2:40 p.m. Nancy Hagelgans, Chair of the Committee on Sections, welcomed the section officers and visitors to the meeting. All present introduced themselves, and they signed a roster to signify attendance.

The minutes of the August 2006 Section Officers Meeting were distributed. Since the participants at the Section Officers Meeting change from meeting to meeting, no formal approval of the minutes was needed. It was suggested that Nancy send a reminder to the MAA members when the Section Officers Meeting minutes are posted on MAA Online.

Nancy noted that Joe Gallian, MAA President-Elect had a conflict, and will stop by later to welcome the section officers.

Updates and Discussion:

The new model for sections' bylaws was approved at the Board of Governors meeting yesterday, Jan. 4. The model can be found on MAA Online under Sections. This new model was needed to conform to all the legal regulations for organizations; it is not the intention that all sections have the same bylaws.

Beginning next year, there will be a 10-year rotation schedule for sections to review their bylaws. Look on the web to find the rotation schedule. Minor amendments to section bylaws, such as splitting the secretary/treasurer position, can be made without the Committee on Sections reviewing the entire set of bylaws during the years between that section's scheduled ten-year review.

Nancy reminded the officers that each section meeting registration form should have check-off boxes for MAA member, two-year college faculty, 4-year college/university faculty, high school teacher, business/industry/government, undergraduate student, and graduate student. This information will be needed to complete the annual section report.

There will be a new web questionnaire for the section's annual report, rather than the "word" document that is currently in use. This web questionnaire will be ready in a couple of months. There will be a few question changes; Nancy would like to have comments about the new form.

Nancy also reminded us that the section annual financial reports are due by January 30. The forms for this report and for the request, from the section's bank, for a year end statement to be sent to the MAA can be found at <http://www.maa.org/Sections/officer-info.html>

The MAA Associate Secretary position is open, and the MAA is looking for a new person since Jim Tattersall is coming to the end of his second term. Jim has agreed to continue for one extra year to help the new appointee learn what needs to be done.

Section Issues and Information:

Elgin Johnson spent a few minutes talking about the American Mathematics Competition. He asked that we a) talk with the local high school and middle school teachers about the AMC; b) that we arrange for universities/colleges to be administration sites for the exam; and c) consider helping with the creation of the exam.

Tina Straley, Executive Director, said we have "almost hired" a new Director of Journals and Publications. Also, the MAA is working on their web site to improve web communications.

Joe Gallian, MAA President-Elect, took a few moments to welcome everyone to this meeting.

John Kenelly, MAA Treasurer, told us that each section has an individual Federal Tax Number; these will be mailed to the section treasurers within the week. Section monies should be in cash or cash equivalents (CD's, Treasury T-bills, etc.) because of the tax laws MAA must follow. If a person wishes to give a section a large donation, please call Tina Straley or Sharon Tryon, and they will help find the best way to handle such a donation.

Discussion on Section Concerns (from August focus group discussions):

At last August's Section Officers Meeting there were focus groups discussing the governance of MAA.

One of the questions discussed was, "what would you (the section) like the national organization to send to you?" The groups said they would like to know more about the location of their members: the county they live in, the college where they are, if they are in industry.

About two-thirds of the participants had not heard of the list serve for section officers (go to <http://www.maa.org/sections/listserv.html> to sign up for this list serve). This list serve is a place to share new ideas. Nancy has said she would

use the list serve to send an “essay” on topics of interest every 4 -6 weeks, the first topic would be on speakers.

--There was a fifteen minute break for more refreshments, the meeting resumed at 3:40 p.m. ---

The question was asked if the MAA could handle registration for section meetings on line. We were told that MAA cannot do this. For a section to do it on their own is reasonably expensive (a set-up fee plus around \$3 for each registration). Several section officers said they had online registration, and the people would just “pay at the door”. They said it worked quite well.

A question about membership on national committees was asked. Tina pointed out that there are approximately 130 – 140 committees, and not all committees have openings. When a person is recommended, the people making the committee appointments would like to know how active the person is in the section and what that person’s qualifications and interests are. It was suggested that a nomination form might be helpful. Also, in the near future, the section affiliation of each committee member will be put beside the member’s name on the lists of all the committee members.

There was a comment from at least one focus group that they thought that the national leaders were not active in their section. Nancy said that even though she wants to be active, often she has to go to other section meetings (as a national officer/speaker) at the time of her own section meeting.

Focus Group Discussions on Students in Sections:

At 4:00 we broke up into focus groups, discussing questions from the MAA Strategic Planning Working Group on Students (Deanna Haunsperger, Chair). Nancy will send a summary of the focus group discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m., with Nancy thanking everyone for their participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Peeples,
Secretary, MAA Committee on Sections