

Minutes
MAA Section Officers Meeting
2:30 – 5:00 p.m., Sunday January 6, 2008
Ballroom G, San Diego Marriott, San Diego, California

1. **Welcome and Minutes:** After those attending spent a few minutes getting refreshments, Nancy Hagelgans called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. Nancy welcomed the section officers and guests, and all present introduced themselves. A roster was signed to signify attendance.

The minutes of the August 3, 2007 meeting were distributed. Since the participants at the Section Officers Meeting change from meeting to meeting, no formal approval of the minutes is needed.

Joe Gallian, the MAA president, greeted the participants. The association is trying to involve more undergraduates; there is a \$1/2 million grant for students, to help pay expenses to meetings if they present a paper or a poster. Joe also reminded the section officers to “buy a brick” – so far nine sections have contributed to MAA by buying a brick.

2. **Updates and Discussion: There were comments and discussion about several issues that are important to the section officers.**
 - The MAA is in its third cycle of continuous strategic planning. This cycle will look at Sections, STEM, and Meetings. There will be a hand out at MathFest with both the charge for the Working Group on Sections and questions for a focus group at the Section Officers Meeting.
 - The registration forms for Section meetings should have check-off boxes for: MAA member; Faculty member at a college or university with highest mathematics degree offered: Associate, Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate; Business, industry, government; High school teacher; Undergraduate student; Graduate student.
 - Section officers can find more information for section officers at: <http://www.maa.org/Sections/officer-info.html> Roseann Brown is working at installing a new management system for the association. It may be possible for MAA to host section websites.
 - The forms for the annual financial reports from the sections are due by January 30. These forms may be found on MAA Online.
 - The Washington staff for sections are: Kathy DeAngelo (kdeangelo@maa.org) and Nathan Ray (nray@maa.org)
3. **Questions from the Strategic Planning Working Group on Sections**
 - What kind of competitions do sections have at their meetings? An “Integration Bee” (individual), team paper and pencil, jeopardy, math bowl, and high school math competitions. It was suggested that the

MAA have a “go-to” person for information about the Putnam competition

- Nancy commented that section sizes vary from 135 to 1753 members. Most sections have 1 ½ day meetings, starting at noon on the first day, and the meetings are moved around in the section.
- Another question asked was “What would keep you up at night if you were the sole person responsible for your section?”

4. Discussion on Section Concerns:

The sections have a long list of concerns, such as:

- How to get big research institutions to participate, and how to get more graduate student participation.
- How to start and maintain section NExT.
- The difficulty of communicating with the Committee on Committees about appointments. There is a section in the annual section report which asks the secretary of the section to submit names and background of possible people to appoint to committees. At the present time there are only four people on the Committee on Committees, this committee plans to expand to include the counsel chairs. In the last few years the Committee on Committees has placed just about everyone who has been recommended on a committee.
- 5 – 9% of the section’s MAA members come to spring meetings, how can this be improved.
- There will be a panel on how to apply for a job at MathFest 2008, can this idea be used at the section meetings.

At 3:55, there was a 10 minute break (for refreshments) and then we broke into focus groups. The questions for the focus groups were written by the MAA Strategic Planning Working Group on Meetings, Betty Mayfield, Chair.

5. Continuation of the Discussion on Section Concerns:

- The comment was made, if a section member wants information to be emailed to all section members, the person making the request should be sure to give their official office to Kathy or Nathan when making the request.
- The question of high MAA dues was asked, and someone wanted to know how today’s cost compared with the 1980 dues (accounting for inflation). Is the MAA considering electronic membership?
- Is it possible for the sections to get non-profit rates for U.S. Mail? It is probably not legal for the section to use the college/university non-profit status.
- Could low enrollment in section summer courses be due to the PREP or PMET institutes? Could Sections and MAA co-sponsor workshops? Possibly a section member could attend a workshop (out of town), and then present the workshop locally.

As this meeting was over the allotted time limit, Nancy adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m. The discussion will continue at MathFest.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Peeples
Secretary, MAA Committee on Sections