



MARYLAND - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - VIRGINIA SECTION

M A A

N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 1, No. 1

Edited by Howard Penn

August, 1979

MARYLAND-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-VIRGINIA
SECTION OF THE
MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
FALL MEETING

The annual Fall meeting of the Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia section of the Mathematical Association of America will be held on

Saturday, November 10, 1979

at the

Prince George's Community College

Largo, Maryland

Much of the program will be structured about the topic 'Mathematical Models and Problems of Operations Research.' Complementing our traditional contributed paper session will be a sequence of talks by industrial and governmental operations research practitioners on actual mathematical modeling and research problems motivated by operational situations. Their presentations on, for example, queueing optimization, and forecasting models will emphasize the description, as well as the mathematical formulation and analysis of problems from areas such as transportation, health care, and banking. Details of the solution techniques will be minimized. In addition to a further discussion of mathematical models and problems of operations research, the keynote speaker will address the problem of structuring the undergraduate mathematics curriculum to meet the needs of the student interested in a career and/or graduate studies in operations research. Dr. Donald Gross, Chairman, Department of Operations Research at George Washington University, will present a one-hour talk. Faculty, students, and non-academic mathematicians interested in current applications of mathematics and professional opportunities in applied mathematics and operations research should find this program valuable.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Contributed talks oriented toward mathematical research, education, and 'real world' problems are invited. Of particular interest are papers on mathematical modeling by industrial and governmental mathematicians and operations research analysts. A total of 30 minutes will be allotted to both the presentation and audience discussion of each paper. Those interested in submitting a paper should send their name, address, business phone number, professional affiliation, and an abstract of not more than 100 words to:

Dr. Patrick Hayes
Senior Mathematician
Division of Bank Operations
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Washington, D. C. 20551
(202) 452-2812

by

September 26, 1979

If more papers are received than can be selected, preference will be given to early postmarks and new contributors. Everyone submitting a talk will be notified by October 17 of the program chairman's decision.

As in previous meetings, a special invitation to make presentations is extended to students. While the topic need not be original, the paper should be of interest to other students. Students should send their name, address, phone number, school, and a brief description of their talk to Dr. Patrick Hayes at the above address by October 5, 1979.

PRIME 80

In the Spring of 1978, fifty-one individuals representing all facets of the mathematics community were invited to participate in a three-day symposium on the Prospects in Mathematics Education in the 1980's (PRIME 80). The purpose of this symposium was to assess the current state of collegiate mathematics and of the related mathematical needs of the nation as a whole. A predecessor conference in 1958, known as the Washington Conference, had set the focus and direction of many of the Association projects over the last 20 years. It is hoped that this conference would have a similar function in the 1980's.

The meetings were structured around position papers covering such aspects of mathematical education as a profile of the current college student, new college structures, two-year colleges, experimental approaches to teaching, the role of statistics, mathematics in business schools, the role of computing, and programs of study in the mathematical sciences. These presented papers were followed by intensive workshop sessions covering a wide range of topics that arose during the presentations.

The culmination of the meeting was the presentation and adoption of a list of 20 resolutions that had developed from the discussions that had occurred during the three days of meetings. These resolutions covered a wide range of areas. Generally, they focus on educating students specifically and the populace in general about the needed mathematical skills that are essential for professions, for entering college, and for living, as well as emphasizing the need for stressing the training of elementary and secondary school mathematics teachers. The resolutions cover the need for reevaluation and redefinition of college curricula to provide appropriate mathematical skills. The concerns of remediation, articulation, and the massive influx of adult learners is addressed. Other resolutions focus on the importance and the need for various forms of continuing education for mathematics educators at all levels. Finally, the resolutions focus upon the need for the mathematical community and the Association in particular to communicate with other organizations and the public as well about the role and the impact of mathematics in our world.

Some of the efforts of the conference were focused upon highlighting and further encouraging already existing programs, such as Women and Mathematics, Blacks and Mathematics, and the publication "The Mathematics in High School You'll Need in College" and other MAA publications. Efforts were also directed in more novel areas as well. The rapidly expanding area of mathematics as a service course for all sorts of areas from engineering to sociology and from secretarial science to nursing was noted as an area requiring much new effort in developing instruction from the very basics of arithmetic applications to the use of quite sophisticated modeling techniques.

Probably the area that attracted more discussion than any other was a resolution that stresses the import of statistics (with a nonprobabilistic approach), computing, and basic optimization techniques for many areas of study. A course containing these topics was considered to be an appropriate substitute for the current college algebra and trigonometry course that is taken by many students. It was also stressed that such a course could be an appropriate alternate lead-in to a calculus sequence as well.

The conference was quite successful. Many of the recommendations are currently under consideration by various committees of the Association, and several have already been implemented.

A document has been produced that contains all the proceedings of the conference in much more detail than is indicated in this brief note. It is available from the national office for \$3.50 prepaid. Send all requests to Proceedings of PRIME 80, Mathematical Association of America, 1529 Eighteenth St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS CONTEST

The 30th Annual High School Mathematics Examination (AHSME) was held on March 6, 1979. More than 17,500 students from 263 DC/MD/VA schools participated.

Lake Braddock Secondary School, Burke, VA, was the highest scoring school in the nation. W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA, was the second highest scoring school. Winston Churchill High School, Potomac, MD, and Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, MD, also received national recognition.

Michael Finn, a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, was the only student in the nation to receive a perfect score. The next two highest scores in the section were attained by John Holford, a senior at W. T. Woodson High School, and Mark Pleszkoch, a senior at Osbourne High School, Manassas, VA. Michael Finn and Mark Pleszkoch were among eight students on the fifth place United States Team at the 21st International Mathematics Olympiad.

The 31st Annual High School Mathematics Examination is scheduled for March 4, 1980. Invitations with contest rules and a poster will be mailed to all high schools during October by the Regional Contest Chairman, Ed Bender, Department of Mathematics, J. Sargent Reynolds Community College, P. O. Box 12084, Richmond, VA 23241. Contest registration closes December 10, 1979.

TEACHERS MEETING

The National Association of Teachers of Mathematics will hold its fall meeting November 17 at Montgomery Community College.

OFFICERS

Your officers for 1979 are:

Chairman: Dr. John M. Smith, Chairman
Department of General Studies
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030

Past Chairman: Prof. Orville M. Thomas
Department of Mathematics
U. S. Naval Academy
Annapolis, MD 21402

Vice Chairman, Membership: Dr. Howard L. Penn
Department of Mathematics
U. S. Naval Academy
Annapolis, MD 21402

Vice Chairman, Programs: Mr. Patrick Hayes
Board of Governors, Federal Reserve Board
20th and Constitution, N. W.
Washington, DC 20551

Secretary: Dr. John R. Hanson
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Treasurer: Dr. John Schmeelk
Department of Mathematics
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA 23229

Governor: Dr. Theodore J. Benac, Chairman
Department of Mathematics
U. S. Naval Academy
Annapolis, MD 21402

Chairman of the High School Mathematics Contest:
Prof. Edward D. Bender
J. Sargent Reynolds Community College
P. O. Box 12084
Richmond, VA 23241

MEETINGS

At the 1979 spring meeting at George Mason University, a By-Laws change was voted on. The change would have allowed the Board of Directors the right to hold one meeting a year. Currently two meetings are required. The change would have given the Board the flexibility to hold either one or two meetings. The proposed change was defeated by a 3 to 1 margin. Also, on the subject of meetings, the national president, Dr. Dorothy Bernstein, mentioned that those sections which held