

MARYLAND - D.C. - VIRGINIA SECTION OF THE MAA

NEWSLETTER

Fall, 1978

FALL MEETING

The Annual Fall Meeting of the Section will be held on Saturday, November 18, 1978 at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis Maryland. The program, which will be distributed later, will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Chauvenet Hall. The Invited Speaker will be Dr. Alfred B. Willcox, Executive Director of the MAA. Call For Papers. A number of 15-20 minute talks will be scheduled in the morning and afternoon sections of the programs. Anyone wishing to present a paper should send the title, author's name, and a short (less than 150 words) abstract to: Professor J.F. Kent, Mathematics Department, University of Richmond, Virginia 23173, by October 13, 1978. Talks should be classified as pedagogical, expository, or research. Pedagogical talks would deal with the teaching of mathematics, curriculum, and/or placement topics. Expository talks would survey an area of mathematics leading up to recent work in the field. (A double time period on the program will be allotted, if necessary.) Research talks would deal with recent results primarily of interest to specialists. The presenter of a research talk should endeavor to provide the necessary background and motivation, recalling that many in his/her audience are not specialists in the area. Note: In addition to the usual program items, some mathematics films will be screened in nearby rooms.

SPRING MEETING

The Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 21, 1979 at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. Election of several officers will take place at that meeting (see the Chairman's letter below.)

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Each institution within our geographic area has been asked to designate an institutional representative to the MAA. These representatives will have a special meeting at Annapolis at the Fall Meeting (see the Chairman's letter below.)

FUTURE MEETINGS

Sites have not yet been selected for meetings beyond next Spring. Institutions interested in hosting a meeting should contact the Chairman-Elect, John M. Smith, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, as soon as possible.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear MAA Section Member:

Another school year is at hand and another group of young people will be coming to our campuses to continue their education. We, who are teachers, face the great responsibility of guiding these people in their quest for knowledge. Teaching is more than imparting certain truths. It includes the way we train people to think, to develop their talents and to become productive citizens. I hope our mathematical association will be a leader in this endeavor. Putnam Examination. At the section's business meeting last April in Petersburg, a motion was made that a sum of money be given to the student in our area who has the highest score on the annual Putnam examination. After much discussion the

motion was referred to the executive committee to examine the feasibility of such a project and to decide on a course of action. The executive committee has agreed that our section will award a \$50 U.S. savings bond this year to the student attending a college or university in the Md-DC-Va section who has the highest standing on the Putnam examination. We would like to do more but our funds are limited.

MAA Representatives. Our Governor, Theodore Benac, has done an excellent job in getting an MAA representative in almost every college or university in our area. I hope each representative will make a special effort to attend meetings, encourage colleagues to come and invite some of their students. There will be a short meeting of all MAA representatives at the fall meeting. Our executive director, Alfred Willcox, will attend this meeting and answer questions which you may have about your duties.

Section Officers. Chairman: Orville M. Thomas, U.S. Naval Academy; Chairman-elect: John M. Smith, George Mason University; Vice-chairman for Programs: Joseph F. Kent, University of Richmond; Vice-chairman for Membership: Hewitt Kenyon, George Washington University; Secretary: Reuben C. Drake, University of The District of Columbia; Treasurer: John K. Schmeelk, Virginia Commonwealth University; Governor: Theodore J. Benac, U.S. Naval Academy.

Nominating Committee. The following people have been asked to serve on the nominating committee for the coming year: Chairman: David Schedler, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia 23229; Ben Fusaro, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, Maryland 21801; V. Ray Hancock, Emory & Henry College, Emory, Virginia 24327; Wilbur Hildebrand, Montgomery Community College, Germantown, Maryland; Larry Lee, National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C.; Carvel Wolfe, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland 21202. Offices to be filled at our spring meeting on April 21, 1979, are: Secretary (A three year term), Vice-chairman for Membership (A two year term.)

Fall Meeting. The fall meeting of our section will be held on Saturday, November 18, 1978 at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. There is much to see in Annapolis. Perhaps members of your family would like to come along and visit the Naval Academy, our State Capital and some of our many colonial buildings. If you are interested in a walking tour of these areas, let me know and I'll arrange for a tour guide to show you around. The fee would be small.

The success of this section depends on the support of its members. The executive committee solicits your participation.

Sincerely,

Orville M. Thomas
Chairman
Md-DC-Va Section of MAA

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, John Schmeelk, reports that our financial situation is more sound than it has been for several years. This is because of increased support from the National MAA Office (\$400.00 in 1977-78), contributions from our members, and fees paid by publisher's representatives at our meetings. Our principal expense continues to be mailing costs, \$486.29 in 1977-78. Our balance, as of June 30, 1978, was \$839.06.

ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS EXAMINATION

The 30th Annual High School Mathematics Examination, jointly sponsored by MAA, NCTM, The Society of Actuaries, Mu Alpha Theta, and The Casualty Actuarial Society, is scheduled for March 6, 1979. Invitations with contest rules and a poster will be mailed to all high schools during November by the Regional Contest Chairman, Ed Bender, Department of Mathematics, Downtown Campus, J. Sar-

geant Reynolds Community College, P. O. Box 12084, Richmond, Virginia 23241. Contest registration closes January 15, 1979.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE ON LOWER DIVISION MATHEMATICS

On Friday, April 21, 1978 the Maryland-District of Columbia-Virginia Section of the MAA in conjunction with the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia, SCHEV, held the Virginia Conference on Lower Division Mathematics in Richmond, Virginia. This conference grew out of an interest on the part of the Executive Committee of this Section of MAA to encourage, facilitate, and foster coordination and communication between the mathematics faculties at two-year and four-year colleges within the boundaries of the section. Since the Spring Section Meeting was scheduled to be held in Virginia the next day, the Executive Committee felt that it would be appropriate to have the first attempt by the Section focus upon institutions within Virginia.

The Conference, held in the facilities of Virginia Commonwealth University, attracted 105 participants from over 28 two and four-year colleges in the state. Those in attendance were treated to a keynote address by Dr. Henry O. Pollak, past president of the Mathematical Association of America. In his keynote address he discussed several topics within collegiate mathematics which he felt needed to be reconsidered and shared several of his experiences as a member of a committee that had been active in the area of recommending curriculum revision during the 1980's.

The conference also had small group meetings on various content areas and on discussions of joint approaches that various regions of the state might pursue. In addition, ample time for informal talk was made available to the participants.

During the concluding session several discussion groups reported an interest among the participants in the exchange of course outlines and syllabi among one another. They expressed the desire that MAA or SCHEV undertake this task. One participant has volunteered to coordinate this exchange. Several of the groups also prepared a list of names and addresses of the people in their group in order to continue communications with each other about their particular content area after the end of the conference. The group on recommendation asked specifically that MAA call the participants together next year for a one day conference on the topic of remediation in mathematics.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

The NCTM will hold a Name-of-Site meeting in Richmond Virginia on November 2-4, 1978, at the John Marshall Hotel. Strands in the program deal with Forward With the Basics, Problem Solving, Hand-held Calculators, and Mathematics for Students with Learning Disabilities. These topics will be included in the 104 Section Meetings and 62 Workshops. Student Displays, Commercial Exhibits, Free and Inexpensive Materials, Films and Filmstrips, NCTM Publications, Make-it - Take-it, and Tours are other standard features. General session speakers include Johnny Hill, Steve Krulik, Lola May, Jesse Rudnick, and Zalman Usiskin. And you can have breakfast Friday morning and hear David Wells at the same time. The full program is available from The NCTM, 1906 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091.

UDC CONSOLIDATION

Commencing with the fall semester of the 1978-79 academic year, the mathematics departments of the three campuses of The University of the District of Columbia will operate as one department due to consolidation efforts completed during the summer session. The three campuses are Mount Vernon Square (Federal

City College), Georgia-Harvard (D. C. Teachers' College), and Van Ness (Washington Technical Institute) whose mathematics departments were chaired respectively by Dr. Elgy Johnson, Dr. Michael Hall, and Dr. Reuben Drake. The new combined department will be chaired by Dr. Elgy Johnson and will include a total of fifty faculty members. Professors John Milcetic and Queen Wiggins, formerly of the Mount Vernon Square mathematics department, will serve as assistant chairpersons.

MATHEMATICAL NOTE

The following result was found written in the margin of a text once used by JMS, the Editor Pro Tem of this Newsletter.
Theorem: For all real x , and all non-zero n , $\frac{\sin x}{n} = 6$. Proof: Cancell the n 's.