CALL FOR PAPERS
UNK—APRIL 2-3, 2004
Dear MAA members,

The spring 2004 meeting of the Nebraska-Southeast South Dakota section of the MAA will be held on the UNK campus in the Nebraskan Student Union on Friday, April 2 and Saturday, April 3. Carl Cowen, professor of mathematics at Purdue University, will be our invited speaker. We’re looking forward to hosting the meeting and we hope that you will be able to attend.

Please consider presenting a paper at the section meeting. We welcome talks on all areas of mathematics and mathematics education; we especially encourage talks from undergraduate and graduate students. If you are a faculty member, please encourage your students to present a paper. To give a talk, either email (willisb@unk.edu) or mail me an abstract and a title by February 20. Additionally, please include contact information for yourself and any requests you may have for special equipment.

The Friday evening banquet will be held on campus in the Nebraskan Student Union. So that we can give the caterer an accurate count, please let me know by March 15 if you intend to attend the banquet.

For overnight lodging, you can choose from most of the standard hotel chains; most of these business are located near I-80. For information about other accommodations, you should be able to find a nearly complete listing online (at for example, www.dexonline.com). A map of our campus may be viewed at www.unk.edu/tools/map.html.

We look forward to seeing you in April; if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely yours,

Barton Willis
Professor of Mathematics

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Section Governor’s Report

As I write this report, it is -5°F and I wish I were back in Phoenix where the Board of Governor’s met on January 6. It was nice to be able to walk around outside with no winter coat.

One of the highlights of the meeting for me occurred on Thursday, when Richard Barlow received a Distinguished Service Award from the MAA for all his dedicated work in our section. When you see him, please congratulate him, as he is very deserving.

At the Board of Governor’s meeting many issues concerning the MAA were brought up and discussed. The general financial health of MAA seems to be on very solid ground under the leadership of the MAA Treasurer John Kenelly and the new Director of Finance Sharon Tryon. Currently the MAA has an approximate $6 million in the budget, $6 million in endowments, $6 million in external grants (over several years) and $6 million in building assets. The MAA headquarters buildings in Washington D.C. are old historical buildings and some repairs will need to be done-rewiring, plumbing, etc. With the gift from the Halmoses, plans for converting the Carriage House into a Mathematics Conference Center are well under way. The management of the investments has been changed slightly. The Treasurer will act in behalf of the Board and the Executive Committee and has the authority to make transactions. MAA is also considering employing professional management for our investments. (Our investments had approximately a 12% return this last year.)

Some of the issues that President Ronald Graham brought up included how to seek MAA membership in top research universities as many of the top 25 have almost no faculty who are MAA members. Another issue he mentioned is the Education Summit and No Child Left Behind Act * the definition of a fully qualified teacher; what it means and who pays for it?

As I mentioned above, the MAA has hired a new Director of Finance, Sharon Tyron who has had considerable experience with non-profit organizations like the MAA. Additional staff have been hired in the computer information area and this will make the MAA much more efficient. Electronic voting that was instituted last spring seem to be successful and this initiative will continue. One of the cost savings measures for the MAA will come in the summer of 2005 when the MAA will totally manage the summer MathFest meeting in Albuquerque. The MAA web page is being constantly modified to make it more functional, easier to navigate and more user friendly.

The PMET and PREP programs are very active and important to our discipline. I am sure Jim Lewis (UNL) will be happy to answer any questions you may have concerning PMET. More information about these programs can be found on MAA’s web site http://www.maa.org.

Please make plans now to attend our section meeting in Kearney!

Sincerely,

John Fuelberth
Section Governor
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