

One of the main reasons I attend the national MAA meetings is to attend the Section Officers' meetings on the first day. Nancy Hagelhans is chair of the MAA Committee on Sections and she gives us a full summary of what other Sections are doing and provides a place for discussion of Section needs. I thought I would share with you some of the information in her last report on Sections' activities.

There are 29 Sections and we are one of only 9 Sections that hold two Sectional meetings a year. I think that is a good point for us. We are the second largest Section by membership and our total of 2137 is only 9 members behind the Southeastern Section and that leads to one of our problems. Our attendance at the Fall meeting was 8% of our population while the Southeastern attendance is 30%! Oklahoma-Arkansas attracts 37% and Wisconsin 36%. The spread-out Rocky Mountain Section attracts 32% and Indiana had an attendance that equaled 49% of its membership total at its Spring meeting. Why do we attract such a small percentage of our membership? If you have any ideas on how to fix this, let me know. One of the reasons is that many Sections have many more student and contributed papers than we do. They normally have more than even the exceptional number of student papers Ann Trenk brought to our meeting last year. Last year, we had 22 undergraduate students at our fall meeting but Southeastern had 160.

Another strength for us is that we have an excellent gender balance among our officers. Only three sections have at least half females among their officers and we are one of them. Several Sections have only one female officer.

We have always been able to have candidates that are worthy of our annual teaching award. A few Sections did not give a teaching award last year. Quite a few Sections give a service award each year. Should we consider that? I'd like to hear your comments.

Next time you come to national MAA meeting, join us at the Section Officers' meeting. Anyone can attend.

Student Papers Presented at the Spring 2004 MAA/NES Section Meeting: Drawing Graphs from Degree Sequences: A Computer based

Brian Black, Providence College,
Approach to Handling Recursive Algorithms

Matthew May, United States Military Academy, West Point

Explaining individual incumbent vote choice from 1972-2000: Can individual incumbent vote choice in U.S. presidential elections be predicted?

Scott Pellicane, Broward Community College, Florida

A "Short" Differential Equations Course

Matthew Palmacci, Framingham State College, MA

Catalan Numbers

Contributed Papers Presented at the Spring 2004 MAA/NES Section Meeting:

Joel Silverberg, Roger Williams University

Thinking Outside the Triangle: a Fresh Look at the Teaching of Trigonometry

Rob Poodiac and Dan McQuillan, Norwich University

Symmetric Derivatives and the Unit Circle

Maky Manchola

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A "Short" Differential Equations Course

Mohammad Salmassi, Framingham State College³, MA

Fibonacci Polynomials

Bruce S. Burdick, Roger Williams University

John Eliot's The Logick Primer, a First in Two Languages