

Governor's Report – Spring 2015

I attended the last Board of Governor's Meeting of my term as governor of the section in January at JMM in San Antonio. The question that has preoccupied the board for the last three meetings (at least) is how to restructure the governance of the Association to better use the efforts of the governors and to save on the costs of holding two large and expensive all-day meetings the day before Mathfest or JMM begins? A group of governors, officers, and staff has been given the task of making recommendations concerning this matter at Mathfest this August.

Items of Interest:

1. The operating deficit for the Association is near \$500K this year mainly due to losses in Publications and the American Math Competitions. Both of these endeavors were undergoing large administrative changes which resulted in one-time expenditures. The Treasurer is hopeful that the steps taken over the past three years will lead to erasing the deficit in two to three years.
2. The Governors approved an increase from \$169 to \$175 for regular yearly dues.
3. A new form of departmental membership to the MAA was approved (subject to some small clarifications concerning costs). The new membership will offer free student membership with electronic journal subscriptions to all eligible students at member institutions. It would also include one faculty membership. This was not approved unanimously. There were serious concerns raised about the cost structure and about the availability of journal subscriptions to libraries at the member schools. Both questions are still under consideration.
4. President Bob Devaney reported great interest in both the goals and activities of the MAA by colleges and universities in Mexico, Central America, and South America. He attended an annual meeting of the various associations in North and South America and felt it was time to increase our outreach into the rest of this hemisphere. He also questioned the need to send the President of the Association to the International Congress of Mathematicians (held every four years). It is a large expense and he did not feel that his presence was necessary in any way. There was some debate concerning his question. It will be revisited at a future meeting.
5. CUPM reported on the continuing development of its curriculum report. There is now available a pamphlet which outlines the report (the report with all its appendices is very large). Also, rather than working on the curriculum every ten years, the committee plans on yearly monitoring and revision of the Courses and Programs sections of the report.