

Governor's Report

October 2016

The major news coming out of the MathFest meeting was the passage of a proposal to make changes to the bylaws and governance structure of the MAA

Shortly after its founding (101 years ago), the MAA was officially incorporated with the filing in Illinois of an Articles of Incorporation. Recent changes in U.S. and Illinois law regarding non-profit organizations necessitated an update of the Articles of Incorporation and the Association's Bylaws. Discussions about to update these new Bylaws to meet communication and governance challenges have been a major focus of the Board of Governors for the past few years. This work culminated in a proposal that the Board of Governors approved with broad consensus at its August meeting at MathFest in Columbus. The proposal will now go to a vote of the general membership.

An upcoming issue of FOCUS which will give the motivation and details of the new proposed governance structure. This proposed changes would create a nine-member Board of Directors [roughly mirroring the current membership of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors – President, Vice-President, Secretary, etc.] and a large Congress [roughly the membership of the current Board of Governors, including representatives from all of the Sections]. The Board of Directors will have oversight and fiduciary responsibility; the Congress will have representative and communication responsibilities.

Following current bylaws, the vote will take place at the business meeting at the Joint Meetings in Atlanta (Saturday, Jan. 7, 11:10 in Atrium Ballroom, Marriott). Attendance and voting are encouraged for all members you can; an e-mail invitation to attend this meeting will go out to all MAA members.

In other news coming out of the MathFest meeting,

- It was decided to abandon the liaison method of communication at the national level in favor of direct e-mail communication. We can still maintain the liaison system for Seaway Section communications if we wish.
- There is a strong push to encourage departmental membership in the MAA. Departmental memberships include free memberships for all undergraduate and graduate mathematics students at the institution. Letters describing the departmental memberships are being sent to all department chairs.
- Budgetary issues at the national level remain a concern, with anticipated possible deficit for 2017 in the neighborhood of a million dollars. A major source of expense has come from publications with pressures coming from the rapid rise of open-source texts and the availability of journal articles on on-line resources. The Association is actively seeking a partnership for publications which will ease the financial burden of publishing while maintaining quality and control. Since these negotiations were ongoing at the time of MathFest, the vote for approval

of the Board of Governors for the 2017 budget was delayed until sometime this fall when details would be known.

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