

January 10, 2013, Business meeting of SIGMAA-MCST at Joint Meetings San Diego  
Thursday morning, 8:30 to 9:30am

Present: Tatiana Shubin, Philip Yasskin, Dan Ullman, Paul Zeitz, Jim Tanton, Japheth Wood, Ed Keppelmann, Sam Vandervelde, Amanda Serenevy

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Before the meeting, Sam send out an email with the tentative agenda:

- a report on the membership drive plans (by James),
- a summary of our financial status (from Japheth)
- a discussion of how we might use our funds in the near future, members time,
- anything else that occurs to me between now and then,
- concluding with our official swearing in of new officers (to wit, Paul)
- various passing of batons.

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The meeting came to order, and Sam reported that the mini-course on How to Run a Successful Math Circle (Sam Vandervele, Amanda Serenevy and Japheth Wood) is going well. It finished well too; the teachers applauded the presenters. Sam promised to update the teaching material for the instructors in the next iteration.

Friday dinner. There was some discussion about where to meet for dinner and how to get both groups (mini-course participants and poster session attendees) to dinner. Amanda made a reservation for 30 and returned soon after. The plan is to just meet at the restaurant, rather than trying to all walk there together.

Demo Circles and Math Wrangle. The two different groups of kids from the San Diego Math Circle will get passes for admission to the conference. Jim has acquired books from MAA to give away, and will distribute them to the students. Tatiana will look for judges for the wrangle.

Poster Session. Philip presented some details about the logistics.

Reception. Jim offered to speak to the masses about math circles and the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics.

Membership discussion. Jim reported that the MAA is restructuring the membership system. There is a plan to (eventually) target HS and MS math teachers for membership.

Tatiana talked about a possible discount to SIGMAA-MCST members who buy books from the MSRI math circle library. Membership would be authenticated by some mechanism. Japheth suggested OpenID and Ed will look into this. Tatiana suggested a secret code to identify math circle people to the MSRI bookstore.

There is a general discussion about possible incentives to entice new membership in our SIGMAA.

Issues to bring to the SIGMAA officers meeting that follows.

- Ease of membership
- A members-only section of our SIGMAA-MCST website
- SIGMAA membership for non-MAA members
- Exactly when is our accumulated money expiring? [Karen Marrongelle says at least good through MathFest. Could propose new things to go into the budget.]

NCTM meeting in Denver, April 17-20. Jim is going, and will be at the AMC table with Steve Dunbar. Will give a talk about AMC, MAA and Math Circles. Paul Zeitz might go too.

Budget. Our SIGMAA money will disappear if not spent. The following ideas were suggested on how to spend it.

- Put money into recruiting new members.
- Move some efforts into the sectional meetings
- Japheth suggests nano-grants to support math circles to have some sort of presence at their sectional MAA meeting. + Must have SIGMAA-MCST membership and should also distribute an info flyer about joining SIGMAA-MCST. How about 10 awards of \$200? Japheth will draft an explanation to send around to the MCST officers.

Role of MCST Members. As a spin-off of the budget discussion, we asked what MCST members get for their membership. They do get a good feeling for supporting math circles. We declared that we should call on existing MCST members to recruit more members into MCST, and that they should act as liaisons to local math circles (hence the item above about connecting math circles with their local MAA sections through presentations at sectional meetings).

Sam (Tatiana? Paul?) will include a call to action in the chair's newsletter.

New Officers for 2013

Paul Zeitz – Chair Elect

Tatiana Shubin – Chair

Sam Vandervelde – Past Chair

Ed Keppelmann – Webmaster

Japheth Wood – Treasurer-Secretary

Philip Yasskin – Program Director

Meeting adjourned

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Respectfully submitted,

Japheth Wood