Minutes from August 2010 SIGMAA Business Meeting

Plans for Joint Math Meetings 2011

The following components were proposed for the Joint Math Meetings in January 2011.

- Math wrangle
- Topic sessions (Engaging topics for Math Circles)
- A few talks about starting a Math Circle
- Panel discussion on starting and running Math Circles

Discussion of Officers Needed

Tatiana Shubin wondered whether the Program Coordinator position is really necessary because we have managed well enough without it up to this point. The group suggested keeping it because Phil Yasskin is interested in running for that position and has some ideas for making it useful. It was also suggested that a Fundraiser position be added. We would need to check whether fundraising is permitted by MAA rules.

Fall Newsletter

The following newsletter components were proposed

- Elections announcement
- Logo
- Featured Circle article (Diana White from University of Colorado at Denver)
- Upcoming meetings, conferences, and events of interest to Math Circle Community
- Math Wrangle and IMO and Link (Steve Dunbar)
- Circle on the Road (Dave Auckly)
- Grad TAs article (Elgin)
- Teacher Circle article (Brianna and Tatiana)
- NAMC link
- Math Problems (Josh Zucker)
- Sorting Activity (Phil Yasskin)

It was proposed that we use a standard web template with swappable content. Old content will be archived and linked. James Taylor will help with web updating.

SIGMAA Poster

We discussed the design of the poster in Focus Magazine. It was proposed that we approach three mathematicians to highlight: Melanie Wood, Brian Conrey, and Jim Tanton. We should ask each one for a photo and a brief quote about Math Circles.

We need to send the poster to Focus by mid-October.

The title could be "MATH CIRCLES for Students and Teachers"

In addition to the featured mathematicians, the poster could include a map of US circles, a photo from a circle, and a good problem.

We discussed several possible problems. It was proposed that we use a grid-based problem such as integer billiards, bug crawls, the BAMO snake problem, Erik Demaine's Gobble Game, or the following problem – "Place one X and one O in each column. Connect Xs to Os in each row and column. Horizontal lines always pass under vertical lines. How many topologically distinct knots are possible?"