

SIGMAA MCST on Circles business meeting  
Wed Jan 13, 2010

Thanks to outgoing officers

New officers: Tatiana as new chair, Jim Tanton now past chair. Sec/treas Amanada Serenevy. Chair-elect Elgin Johnston

This fall will be electing a new chair-elect and program director.

Fliers from Tatiana and from Jim (purple and yellow respectively). There's also a nice agenda for the sessions tomorrow.

Photo for website of new officers.

Expenses: \$300 for Paul Zeitz, Books for awards for kids on Saturday (about \$100).

Did we ever send a print newsletter? Tatiana sent stuff to James and it should be going out soon.

Tatiana: Session planned at JMM 2011. At Mathfest we will have Zvezda's address and she will organize the special session. Five former circlers, postdoc and grad student and undergrad and HS, will be at that session. At (mathfest?), relationship between math circles and school curriculum (both students and teachers), proposal just submitted.

Maybe a poster session for mathfest? Need to apply in January.

We should have a demo circle session and if possible a math wrangle as well when we know there are good kids there to be trained. Is there something in Pittsburgh for mathfest?

For JMM we have applied for a contributed paper session (not a special session). Contributed paper session gets a more prominent place in the program. Participants/speakers get more credit for it too. (Should it have been an invited paper session?) We can probably get a special session if this doesn't come through.

Supplies for Sat: Paper&pencils for kids, overhead materials for me.  
Math wrangle prizes for kids. (Maybe we can hijack some things from rm 3001 on Sat).

To set up for posters: need tables. (Sounds like we can get them from 3001 after Fri morning poster session ends).

Math wrangle: Jim Tanton, Paul Z, Josh to judge. Kids are prepped.

Officers meeting tomorrow morning 10:30 in 3014.

Poster celebrating and propagating our SIGMAA. Tatiana has given some materials to Jim Tanton but it has stalled there for now. Idea is to get prominent research mathematicians who have been involved with circles to say “this person does it, why don’t you?” Also include some interesting circle-type problems. Can we afford the designer and the printing of it? If it gets elaborate could cost \$500-3000 to design plus \$500+ for printing.

Could we get AMS to print it as one of their poster series? “Math Moments” Sergei will check with AMS. Action committee: Sergei and Elgin and Amanda will lead the effort.

Tatiana: We have the challenge of having a small SIGMAA. Each of us should recruit 5? 2? people to join the SIGMAA. Also remind people of where to go to join the SIGMAA now that it’s easier to do online. It’s hard to find where to do it.

Steve Maurer: Tell kids about mathpath. Also their brochure designer is affordable! Current cost is \$4500.

Tatiana: Our only real activity is organizing sessions at the national meetings. What else should we be doing?

Look for a grant to find travel expenses for us to visit each others circles.

Upcoming Circle on the Road conference in Tempe, going to start a math circle there as well as having the usual “Great Circles” type conference just not at MSRI. It’s for people starting circles to come together with people who have already done it. Both math circles and teachers’ circles.

Also mathcircles.org website - visit the booth. Lots of activities out there. Website has links to upcoming events.

Make sure mathcircles.org is mentioned at the sessions.

What is the SIGMAA’s goal? To support and propagate math circles including extending their influence into curriculum. Also to give circles a presence at the meetings.

To what extent is “math circle” well known to mathematicians? Have they heard of it and don’t want to do it? Or do they not know about it?

The word is spreading - like at MathFest this year. Still a lot of visitors to the NAMC booth don’t know about it.

How about a social gathering somewhere? Dinner on Sat after the sessions?