

SIGMAA-MCST Business Meeting Minutes – Prepared by Jane Long
January 15, 2020 6:15pm – 7:15pm
Joint Mathematics Meetings, Denver

In attendance

- Jane Long, chair-elect
 - Ed Keppelman, chair
 - Brandy Wieggers, chair-elect elect
 - Skona Brittain
 - Gabriella Pinter
 - James Taylor
 - Gwinn Royal
 - Phil Yasskin
 - Maria S Nogin
 - Amanda Serenevy
 - Spencer Bowen
 - Tatiana Shubin
 - David Patrick
 - Mark Saul
1. Charter Bylaws revision for Journal of Math Circles (JMC) Associate Editor
 - a. Investigate if this update can be done electronically through MAA headquarters
 - b. temporary position – charter allows for appointment rather than election because of reasons of special expertise
 - c. Tom Clark currently occupies this position but has a sabbatical coming up
 - d. 3-year term
 2. National Association of Math Circles (NAMC, mathcircles.org)
 - a. Spencer Bowen sbowen@aimath.org – new director of NAMC.
 - b. NAMC effectively transferred from MSRI to AIM as of January 1, 2020. AIM is trying to get NAMC back to being as helpful as possible. Trying to port over materials, placeholder website in place right now. Some activities are up (from San Francisco Math Circles). Submission of activities is also up. All of this is similar to what Math Teachers' Circle Network does.
 3. Thinking about the role of JMC and NAMC:
 - a. mathcircles.org is great for quick lesson posting/ worksheets
 - b. JMC is for a longer tested lesson with a writeup that captures the experience of running the session and the experience of the participants in the session.
 4. MAA Cheryl Adams's proposal; details follow in addendum to the minutes. Mark and Tatiana brought up that we'd negotiate specifics but that we should emphasize that we're providing a service to the community. We need to ask what the costs would be; can SIGMAA pay? Can MAA pay? There are always extra rooms... ACTION ITEM – JANE FOLLOW UP
 5. Mark Saul - JRMF has 16 facilitators but would prefer 12 more. Gwinn Royal will volunteer. Volunteers should register at jrmf.org and arrival at 12:30pm for the event Saturday 1:00-3:00pm. ACTION ITEM – Mark Saul propose JRMF for MathFest. ACTION ITEM – Ed will put link

- to jrnf.org on SIGMAA website rather than post math problems. Use of photos? ACTION ITEM – Mark will send Ed photo waiver, Ed will make ~200 copies.
6. JMC – has had 5 articles published and is very proud. Encourage people to submit and take/distribute postcards available here.
 7. Friday night reception – 6-8pm at The Oceanaire Restaurant. SIGMAA pays 1/3. ACTION ITEM – ED will send one more reminder.
 8. Alliance of Indigenous Math Circles – Tatiana – anticipating growth in number of summer camps pending funding. 2 in 2020, one for students and one for students and teachers; 3-4 new ones coming this summer or next. Need lots of people as facilitators! SIGMAA please help recruit. ACTION ITEM – Tatiana will draft language, exec board will send out. Full funding will cover travel expenses, meals, lodging, token stipend. Expectation is mostly 1-week camps; student/teacher camp may be longer, ~ 2 weeks. 9am-9pm daily; 3.5 – 4.5 days. Last half day is training for math festival. Teachers run the festival for the camp kids and local kids. Summer 2020 first week of June, hybrid starts July 15. More dates should hopefully be set by March; keep flexible schedules, please! Hybrid camp at fine arts tribal college in Santa Fe, great food!
 9. Contributed paper session for January 2021 meetings –
 - a. ACTION ITEM – Spencer and Brandy will fill out the proposal.
 - b. ACTION ITEM – Jane will follow up and be sure it's done
 10. ACTION ITEM – Mark will find out and propose JRMF for JMM 2021.
 11. Themed Contributed Paper Session (TCPS) for MathFest 2020 – Ed's game/strategy proposal is in (edit to add: approved and scheduled for Thursday 1:30-5:00pm at MathFest). See addendum.
 12. Congrats to Amanda S and James T for organizing a good session today at JMM – new folks – from Tatiana.
 13. SIGMAA-REC collaboration – Brandy suggests that the difference is playing with math within the community, we want to reach out. Those filling out proposals should remember to please request no overlap in timing with our paper sessions.
 14. ACTION ITEM – Jane will propose repeat of the Minicourse “How to Run Successful Math Circles for Students and Teachers.” Spencer Bowen open to co-facilitating with Jane. JRMF collaboration was proposed in the sense that the participants should plan to facilitate/attend. JRMF is open to incorporating problems that the minicourse uses.
 15. Update for future JMM AMS/MAA separation:
 - a. SIGMAA/AMS meeting tomorrow morning. Ed and Mark will attend. Breakfast meeting with Catherine Roberts about SIGMAA Activities in future January meetings. Outreach? Reach the SIGMAA crowd? Some SIGMAAs only meet at JMM, others do differently. SIAM participates in JMM but not at level of MAA/AMS. AIM/NAMC may still do January meeting. SIAM does not participate in MathFest. We should be involved in the public day!
 - b. Brandy, chair-elect, will provide historical knowledge to support Jane, chair, as JMM transition happens. Amanda wonders if our SIGMAA will migrate out to some structure in AMS that makes more sense. SIGMAAs were virtually guaranteed to have their CPS accepted, which was one reason for creation (from Tatiana).
 - c. Amanda's view: the real organizations are housed at AIM (MTC, NAMC) and SIGMAA is just a facilitating umbrella. Phil: SIGMAAS provide Funds?

- d. SIGMAA-UR trying to start funding workshops at section meetings – this is exciting because more people go to section meetings. Brandy is a good resource for how these worked out.
 - e. Ed will alert us about what he finds at the breakfast meeting. See addendum.
16. Spencer Bowen sbowen@aimath.org welcomes conversation about NAMC
17. The Chair is passed! And the meeting is adjourned.

Addendum: Cheryl Adams, MAA Director of Member and Customer Relations, proposal for Math Circle events. Sent via email Monday, January 6, 2020. There has been some follow-up with executive officers; chair will send updates to the listserv.

Here's what I'm proposing:

- If SIGMAA MCST hosts a Math Circles Demo or a Math Wrangle or Math Rumble at MathFest 2020, we can let students and their chaperone teachers accompanying them participate in that one MathFest event, the public Martin Gardner Lecture, and go into the exhibit hall for free, based on the following:
 - The SIGMAA and Gardner times are TBD on Saturday until the plenary load out time is confirmed.
 - Cheryl Adams would help the SIGMAA set up a registration form listing those events as the only ones the Math Circles event students and their teacher chaperones could participate in for free, get different color badges for that one event, and help monitor their participation that day.
 - Students, volunteers, chaperones, or teachers wishing to attend other MathFest events will need to purchase a paid meeting registration.
- If a Julia Robinson Math Festival is held after JMM 2020 at an MAA conference, all participants will need to register and event costs covered by JRMF organizers or sponsors.
- JRMF sponsors are welcome to cover their registrations with MAA as group registrations (these do not need to be by individual registration).
- MAA Meetings & Events will bill JRMF organizers for the meeting room, AV, and any other event charges MAA incurs for the event (ex: room resets like this year's, WiFi costs...).

Addendum: Ed Keppelman's summary of AMS Breakfast Meeting, Thursday, January 16, 2020

Greetings Circle Sigmaa Leaders,

I wanted to let you know about the meeting this morning regarding the future of the January Meetings.

I found the AMS leadership to be extremely comforting and encouraging. They pointed out that a number of organizations have their annual meetings at these January gatherings (like SIAM, AMW, NAM, Pi Mu Epsilon, etc) and they are open to the idea that the MAA SIGMAAs could also become such a partner. This would include the fast track proposal system we currently enjoy for workshops and CPS sessions. They also seemed more than willing to become educated about our methods and audiences. They are open to ideas like sessions where a 20 minute talk is followed by a 20 minute discussion about that talk or other formats we might consider.

A big thing for the AMS is the MSC - Mathematical Subject Classification system. They are thinking about some new #s for SIGMAAS - like Teaching and Learning, Recreational Math, and Professional Development. It is of course possible to give talks which cover many areas. There are some cultural differences as I pointed out how we can tie all kinds of math to learning situations and when we speak of professional development we often (but not always) mean the development of K-12 teachers (that is currently not a part of their proposed system)

They do see their Mathematicon offerings on Saturday as continuing and I pointed out that we really want to be a part of planning that since this is our specialty. I also pointed out that we not only do outreach but at these national meetings we also like to demonstrate outreach to our colleagues so. This means we don't want to restrict outreach to just the Saturday and we want to work on ways to encourage AMS members (and in fact all professional mathematicians) and others to attend these outreach events.

They have an open dialogue which will continue among those who were there and anyone else who wants to be involved. You don't have to be a member of the AMS to serve on AMS committees. There is a place on the AMS website to nominate yourself and others for committees and there is a place on the AMS meetings website to send comments and concerns about future meetings which they say they look at very carefully.

(Ed would also like to add that anyone who attended the Friday session on the future of the January meetings might have a different perspective or additional ideas we should know about.)



MAA MATHFEST

Summary Information

Themed Contributed Paper Session Information

SESSION TITLE: Games in Math Circles

COMPLETE DESCRIPTION:

Math Circles can involve students or teachers and present a chance to work on interesting and accessible mathematical problems. The purpose of this session is to provide ideas for fun activities which either show potential for good circle activities or have actually already been used successfully in math circles.

More specifically this session will focus on games in math circles. In addition to being fun and social, interesting math circle games are initially fun to play but ultimately they present opportunities for the players to think deeply about optimal strategies, consider variations on a game, or propose methods for computer or spreadsheet simulations and analysis of game situations. There are no fast and hard rules about how a game should be considered by a circle but there are some enjoyable possibilities: Writing code to have a computer play optimally against students and teachers can be great fun as the group tries to beat the master. When some component of chance exists in a game this can be possible and when there is not such a component students can analyze the behavior of the code to see a game more deeply. In some fun cases the game, while appearing to be complex, is actually totally determined, for example, by the opening move. Having circle participants see this can involve an interesting journey in some fun and accessible mathematical area.

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

We will focus on games in math circles. Such games are fun to play but they also offer opportunities for participants to think deeply about optimal strategies and do meaningful computations. Computer simulations of games or the coding of a master player that the circle can compete against are possibilities. Some games are not what they seem as they can be nearly determined by the opening setup but seeing this involves some deep funstration.

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS:

SIGMA ON CIRCLES MCST

PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED:

We usually have a contributed math circle session but this particular topic has never been used.

ADDITIONAL AV:

The standard is fine but tables where groups can collaborate and play would be great.

SCHEDULING CONSTRAINTS:

NOT on Saturday as the circle has a number of other obligations such as a Julia Robinson Math Festival or circle demonstration.

Organizer Information

First Name:

Edward

Middle Initial:

C

Last Name:	Keppelmann
E-mail:	keppelma@unr.edu
Affiliation:	University of Nevada Reno
Confirm Session Type:	Themed Contributed Paper Session

 Feedback

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