



The Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Western Massachusetts
PO Box 139
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts 01030-0139

October 28, 2005

Scott L. Trahan
President
SLTrahan@aol.com

Louise M. Lataille
Past President
louiselat@hotmail.com

Tricia Lynn
Secretary
MATHWESTnews@yahoo.com

Patricia Bertone-Gross
Treasurer
pbertonegross@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Ellen Follett
follett@wsps.org

Marnie Henneman

Barbara Martowski
NCTM Representative
bmartows@comcast.net

Andrew Perry
perryand@yahoo.com

Cindy Tuthill
ATMNE Representative
Teach12753@charter.net

Dear Fellow ATMNE Board Members,

I am writing to inform you of MATHWEST's difficult decision to cease membership in ATMNE. At this time, all contracts for venues for the 2007 ATMNE conference in Springfield have been cancelled, as the board feels this is too much of a burden to take on with little financial reward. In addition, MATHWEST is notifying its membership and NCTM of our decision to leave the association.

During the meeting in Hartford, I brought forth a proposal regarding the split of monies for future ATMNE Conferences. MATHWEST, in taking on all the financial and physical burdens of this conference, requested a 60% stake in the revenues rather than the traditional 40%, as stated in the ATMNE By-Laws. As you may know, this proposal was not well received. The reaction of the ATMNE board was discussed with the executive board of MATHWEST. As a group, we have decided that ATMNE is no longer responsive to the needs of this affiliate. We would like to share with you our reasons for this decision.

1. The funds acquired by ATMNE, from groups like MATHWEST, are not being appropriately or efficiently utilized. ATMNE board members were reimbursed for hotel rooms without proper receipts or documentation. In addition, recent costs for ATMNE board meetings were extravagant, given the association's financial situation.
2. The tradition 40-60 split of profits for conferences is extremely inequitable. ATMNE does absolutely none of the planning or execution of the conference. The affiliate group, however, is expected to provide all of the physical labor in executing the event.
3. The ATMNE journal, which each member is supposed to receive, is written for a select audience. It does not address the needs of the general membership. It has also been noted that for some reason, many of our members do not receive the journal.
4. Repeatedly, the ATMNE membership database has been misplaced. In other circumstances, provided updates have not been made. This has caused unnecessary aggravation for the membership chairs of the affiliate groups.
5. There is a lack of shared information, especially with respect to the membership and speaker databases. We have requested this information on several occasions with no response.
6. The membership fee of \$5 per member is expensive given the above grievances, and adds unnecessarily to rising membership costs.

If ATMNE would provide services to its affiliate members to effectively and efficiently share data regarding membership and speakers, make a reasonable attempt to keep expenses down, and create an equitable distribution of effort and resources amongst its member groups, MATHWEST would gladly reconsider membership in the future.

Sincerely,

Scott Trahan
President