

ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS
IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, AN AFFILIATED
GROUP OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

MATHWEST NEWS

DECEMBER 2001 Volume 14, Issue 4

Get on Board with WGBY and Take a Tour of TeacherLine

GENERAL MEETING DECEMBER 6, 2001

Center for Instructional
Technologies



*44 HAMPDEN STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
3:30 — 5:30 PM*

The WGBY **Center for Instructional Technologies** (CIT) is a professional development resource center for Massachusetts educators housed in WGBY's downtown Springfield offices. They offer comprehensive K-12 technology training in a 26-station dual-platform computer lab, a software preview and evaluation library, and a wide assortment of PBS videos and teaching resources.

During our meeting the CIT staff will showcase what math offerings are available at WGBY and provide us with information on PBS Teacherline, a virtual resource for content, community and collaboration provided by a grant to WGBY/PBS from NCTM and ISTE. We will also hold the elections for the 2002 MATHWEST Board of Directors.

There will be a drawing of prizes, refreshments and opportunity to socialize with peers. Following the meeting, join MATHWEST Board for dinner at The Fort.

Inside this
edition:

- ★ A listing of upcoming professional development opportunities
- ★ Profiles of candidates for election to the MATHWEST Board of Directors
- ★ Ways to volunteer at the NCTM Eastern Regional Conference in Boston in 2002
- ★ Pictures from the October General Membership Meeting

VISIT OUR WEB SITE
www.wgby.org/edu/mathlink

Table of Contents

Professional Opportunities	2
MATHWEST Election Information	3
Volunteer for Boston 2002	5
Photos from October Meeting	6

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program offers current public or private elementary and secondary mathematics, technology, and science classroom teachers with demonstrated excellence in teaching an opportunity to serve in the national public policy arena. Fellows provide practical insight in establishing and operating education programs. Fellowships increase understanding, communication, and cooperation between legislative and executive branches and the science, mathematics, and technology education community.

Einstein Fellows usually serve for ten months in professional staff positions in the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives, DOE, NASA, NSF, NIH, ED, NIST, or OSTP. Appointments usually begin in September and end in June. Application deadline: February 1, 2002.

Each applicant must meet the following criteria:

- be a U.S. citizen at the time of selection (May 1st)
- have a minimum of five years full-time classroom teaching experience
- be teaching full time in a public or private elementary or secondary school
- have a current teaching assignment with at least 3/4 of classroom contact hours in science, mathematics, and/or technology (applies to secondary school teachers only)
- provide three recommendations one of which is from a school district official.

For more information, see:

www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/Einstein/about.htm and
www.triangle-coalition.org/ein.htm



The 2002-2004 Connections Program

The SMARTer Kids Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2002-2004 Connections Program, a collaborative learning program for fifth- and sixth-grade classes from across North America. The program equips upper elementary schools with leading-edge technology, provides teacher training and promotes collaborative projects between schools. Teams of fifth- and sixth-grade teachers from the same accredited, nonprofit public and private schools in Canada and the United States are eligible to apply. Applications must be received by Feb. 28, 2002 and are available online at:

www.smarterkids.org/k12/connections/appform.asp.

Presenters Wanted

Peter Rosnick is working on an Eisenhower funded professional development grant that, among other things will be sponsoring a series of workshops for a group of eight math educators this fall and winter and a workshop day this summer geared for a much broader audience. He is searching for names of possible presenters who could present on one or both of the following two topics.

One of the workshops to participate in is under the broad heading of technology in the mathematics classroom and specifically would focus on two issues. 1) What are the implications of the TI-89 calculator (and others with similar capabilities) on the high school as well as freshman and sophomore level college math curriculum? They want someone to present briefly on what the TI-89 can do and then foster a discussion on what changes, if any, its adoption would force on the curriculum. 2) How can the internet be used as a resource for data or information that would be integral to student problem solving in the classroom? Thus, they would be learning how to incorporate real data into the problems we give to our students or, better, real data that the students find in the process of solving problems. This workshop is tentatively scheduled for Nov 28 from 3:15 to 5:45 (with an alternative date of January 16). The summer workshop would be in late July or early August.

The main focus of the second workshop would be to explore ways in which mathematics can be found outdoors. They will be looking for resources of topics and problems that our students can explore and solve outside of the classroom and building. They are interested, in part, in exercises that are interdisciplinary and hope to include exercises that are appropriate for lower level as well as those for more advanced classes. This workshop is tentatively scheduled for January 16 from 3 until 5:30 (or possibly Nov 28). The summer workshop would be in late July or early August.

Presenters will be paid \$225 for the 2.5 hour workshop and prep time. Presenters are also asked to provide us with a portfolio of articles and/or resources and/or materials we could use in our classes. (There is a budget for any materials that need to be purchased.) An additional \$225 is offered for the summer.

Please call or e-mail Peter Rosnick (413) 775-1446 or e-mail him at rosnick@gcc.mass.edu, if you are interested in taking part in this opportunity.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE
www.wgby.org/edu/mathlink

MATHWEST Elections To Take Place December 6th

MATHWEST will hold its elections for the 2002 calendar year on December 6th at its meeting at WGBY's Center for Instructional Technology.

We are still in need of a **President-Elect**, which requires a four year commitment. This person serves in this position for a year, then becomes the **President** of MATHWEST for two-years, and serves a final year as **Past President**. If you know of anyone who would be interested in this position, please let us know.

The candidates for this year include:

Secretary:

Liz Kosior, candidate for re-election

Board Members:

Ellen Follet

Louise Lataille, candidate for re-election

Marnie Hennemann

Barbara Martowski

Below are descriptions of the candidates who are running for office.

Ellen Follet

Ellen is currently a mathematics teacher at West Springfield High School, where she faces the new challenge of teaching the AP Calculus course. She regularly attends the AP Calculus Get-Togethers sponsored by MATHWEST, and is interested in helping to promote mathematics education in Western Massachusetts.

Liz Kosior

Liz is running for a second term as the secretary of MATHWEST. She currently teaches third grade in the Longmeadow Public Schools. She enjoys representing the interests of elementary teachers in our association.

Barbara Martowski

Barbara teaches in the Ware Public Schools. A math teacher for the Title 1 program for the past 14 years – she began at the elementary school, next servicing the town's parochial school, and now at Ware Middle School (grades 4,5,6). She is a certified to teach math (7-12), elementary (K-8), and general science (7-12).

Louise Lataille

Louise would be delighted to serve a second term on the board of directors for MATHWEST. She is currently a mathematics teacher at Wilbraham Munson Academy.

MATHWEST DATES TO REMEMBER



DECEMBER

- 6th ~ Open House/Meeting at WGBY's Center for Instructional Technologies
44 Hampden Street, Springfield
MATHWEST Elections to be held.
- 18th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together, 4PM
Bertucci's Pizzeria, West Springfield

JANUARY

- 22nd ~ AP Calculus Get-Together, 4PM
Bertucci's Pizzeria, West Spfd

FEBRUARY

- 19th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together, 4PM
Bertucci's Pizzeria, West Spfd

MARCH

- 7th ~ General Membership Meeting, 4 PM
Holiday Inn, Holyoke
Topic: Geometry
- 19th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together, 4PM
Bertucci's Pizzeria, West Springfield
- TBA ~ TI Interactive! Workshop

Come to NCTM 's 80th Annual Meeting Las Vegas, Nevada April 21 - 24, 2002

Realizing the Vision of School Mathematics

Hosted by Nevada Mathematics Council

- More than 1000 sessions for professional development
- More than 200 exhibitors of math products and resources
- The latest NCTM publications and products
- Networking, sharing ideas and more!

Make your reservations now!
For more information, visit www.nctm.org

The Program Book will be available in print and on the website in February 2002.

IN THE PRESS

Schools Take First Step in Eliminating Grades Buffalo News, 05 November 2001

The Niagara Falls School District in New York is phasing in a new evaluation process as it phases out the grading system. Report cards will show lists of skills in each subject area and indications of whether students have mastered those skills.

Eventually, school officials say, they want to do away with grade levels. Students will move ahead according to their abilities rather than their ages.

"The problem is, we've been locked into a system that was created years and years ago and doesn't work today," said superintendent Carmen Grant. "The definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results."

The new evaluation method will be phased in by subject, beginning with math and language arts, and only at the elementary and middle-school levels. Called benchmarking, the new system will provide a more objective way of measuring what a child knows, said Christopher Murgia, a fifth-grade teacher.

Not all teachers agree that benchmarking is an improvement, however. Nancy Andrews, an eighth-grade teacher, said grades motivate students to try harder.

Math Scores Improve For 4th, 8th Graders; *Many Still Struggle* Philadelphia Inquirer, 03 August 2001

Results of the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress show moderate improvement in math by both fourth and eighth graders. Proficiency among public-school fourth graders rose from 17 percent to 25 percent over the last eight years. Proficiency for eighth-graders increased to 26 percent from 20 percent.

However, most students continue to have trouble with the test, which involves measurement, geometry, algebra and statistics. More troubling is the stubborn achievement gap between white students and black and Hispanic students. Eighty-seven percent of the highest-scoring eighth-graders were white students.

"This demonstrates that while we have the know-how, we seem not to have had the will to educate all of our children to high levels," said Amy Wilkins of the Education Trust.

Debra Paulson, a member of the NAEP board, said test results were best in states where teachers have increasingly focused on basic skills.

THIS SECTION OF MATHWEST NEWS DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF MATHWEST OR ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE ARTICLES ARE REPRINTED HERE TO ENLIGHTEN OUR MEMBERSHIP ABOUT WHAT WAS RECENTLY

PRINTED IN THE MEDIA ABOUT MATHEMATICS EDUCATION.

Making Math Add Up Boston Globe, 19 August 2001 (p. 07)

NASSMC reports that Massachusetts has joined thirteen other states in a coalition to set more challenging math standards for middle school students. The coalition intends to test the students on algebra and geometry by the end of eighth grade. The \$6 million, two-year project was developed by Achieve Inc.

The coalition's test, which is expected to start in 2002-2003, would supplement the math portion of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System Exam. Unlike the state test, it will allow comparisons with eighth-grade performance in other states.

Not everyone is convinced Achieve will be able to come up with a pilot test so quickly. Moreover, students may not have covered the material by then, due in part to the national shortage of qualified math teachers, said Lee Stiff, president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. "My concern is that they're putting the cart before the horse," Stiff said.

Even though NCTM set standards advocating early introduction of algebra concepts more than a decade ago, many people still balk at the notion that anyone other than the brightest students needs to learn algebra before high school. In Braintree, Massachusetts, the school district has begun weaving the fundamentals of algebra into the middle school grades. However, Bill Kendall, director of math for the Braintree schools, gets plenty of complaints from parents. "They say, 'Wait a minute. I didn't understand this in high school and now you want my kid to do this in middle school?'"

The Nation's Report Card: Mathematics 2000

In 2000, NCES conducted the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in mathematics at the national level among fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students, and at the State level among fourth and eighth grade students within participating states and jurisdictions. Results for the 2000 assessment are now available for the nation and participating states. National results are based on nationally representative samples of students at grades 4, 8, and 12. Results for individual states and other jurisdictions are available for grades 4 and 8. In addition to data for 2000, grade 4 data for individual jurisdictions are shown for 1992 and 1996, while grade 8 data are given for 1990, 1992, and 1996.

Three products have been released for this assessment. They are: "The Nation's Report Card: Mathematics 2000" at nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001517, "The Nation's Report Card: Mathematics Highlights 2000" at nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001518, and

VISIT OUR WEB SITE
www.wgby.org/edu/mathlink

Boston 2002: Reaching New Heights in the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics



NCTM Regional Conference Boston, Massachusetts November 14-16, 2002

The success of the 2002 Regional Conference in Boston depends on committed volunteers. Several committees have been established to handle various aspects of the conference. **Volunteers who are not NCTM members can register for the conference at member rates.** Please strongly consider volunteering to serve on one of the following committees:

- > Equipment: The committee works with NCTM and the equipment supplier to ensure that audiovisual and other equipment is available at the correct locations and times.
- > Workshop Support: The committee works solely with workshop presenters.
- > Hospitality: Hospitality volunteers provide information for attendees regarding meeting room locations, parking, local restaurants, sites and attractions to visit, and other non-conference activities.
- > Membership: The committee provides member services information and assists conference attendees in becoming members of NCTM and its affiliated groups.
- > NCTM Educational Materials: This committee is responsible for the sale of NCTM materials during the conference.
- > Registration: Registration volunteers distribute exhibitor badges and provide registration assistance. NCTM will handle the official registration.
- > Signs and Printing: The committee creates and places all signs and printed materials for the conference.
- > Special Needs: Special needs volunteers work with conference attendees who require accommodations.
- > Student Hosts: The committee works with local high schools to enlist students to serve as NCTM hosts.
- > Function: This committee arranges all receptions and planned meal functions.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Gayle Town at gtown@winchester.k12.ma.us with your name, telephone number, grade level, school name and address, and the committee on which you would like to serve.

Another Revolutionary Event in Boston!

October General Meeting

A Statistical Success

The October meeting of the general membership was well attended with over forty people participating in workshops discussing the role of probability and statistics in the K-12 curriculum and beyond.

The elementary teachers were greeted by orange and black balloons and presenter, Karen Lynds. Holding up signs to judge the probability of an event, it was "likely" to have been fun for all.

The second presenter Dave Daniels presented his "Five Probability Problems." Using the TI-83 graphing calculator, participants learned how to simulate probability experiments, like the problem involving an absent-minded secretary who addressed ten envelopes stuffed the personalized letters in them at random. Forgetting to look at the names on the envelopes, it was quite a surprise that it was indeed quite likely that at least one if not more would be correct.

Following the dinner, Dave Lemher gave a presentation on how the standards for Probability and Statistics develop from the elementary level through the middle school grades and up through high school. A discussion preceded with comments and idea sharing by many.

Participants left that evening with new ideas and an appreciation for probability and statistics.



TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Sketchpad 4

Key Curriculum Press and Key College Publishing have announced the arrival of the long-awaited major upgrade to The Geometer's Sketchpad - Version 4. If you have not yet decided to upgrade, information about the new features of Sketchpad, upgrade pricing, and ordering information are available at: www.keypress.com/catalog/products/software/Prod_GSP.html.

AP Calculus Problems on PC Disks

Would you like a free copy of a 3.5 disk containing pc word processing files of all the released AP multiple choice questions for the Calculus AB and BC exams? It's perfect for cutting and pasting problems together. If so, contact Scott at SLTrahan@aol.com.

TI Interactive! Workshop

March — April
Agawam High School

Sponsored by a Mary Alice Wilson Grant, this workshop is open to all MATHWEST members. During the five, two-hour sessions, participants will explore the various components of this software application that combines the functions of a graphing calculator with that of a word processor. PDP's will be awarded through Agawam Public Schools. If interested, contact Scott at



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Lyn Heady (01-02)
P.O. Box 784
Easthampton, MA 01027
Tel: (413) 584-7041
lheady@hotmail.com

Secretary

Liz Kosior (00-01)
158 Corey Colonial
Agawam, MA 01001
Tel: (413) 786-1388
LSKosior@aol.com

Treasurer

Cindy Tuthill (01-02)
20 Mill Road
Hampden, MA 01036
Tel: (413) 566-0224
teach12753@rcn.com

Board

James Annear (00-01)
290 Regency Park Drive
Agawam, MA 01001
annearjj@aol.com

Dr. Paul Desmarais (00-01)
P.O. Box 163
Granby, MA 01033-0163
Tel: (413) 467-3766
paul.desmarais@the-spa.com

Dr. Louise M. Lataille (00-01)
21 Maple Street
Chicopee Falls, MA 01020
Tel: (413) 592-7120
louiselat@juno.com

Nancy Strouse (01-02)
89 Lower Massachusetts Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089
Tel: (413) 737-3403
nancyst@massed.net

Donna Watson (01-02)
55 Ridgecrest Circle
Westfield, MA 01085
Tel: (413) 568-3914
dmwatson55@aol.com

Don White (00-01)
34 North East Street

dfwhite@massed.net

EX-OFFICIO BOARD

William Chandler
119 Chantilly Ave.
North Adams, MA 01247
Tel: (413) 664-6705
chandlerww@aol.com

Harold (Spike) Clancy
2244 Baptist Hill Road
Palmer, MA 01069
Tel: (413) 289-0085
sclancy@massed.net

Sarah Cothran
WGBY-TV
44 Hampden Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Tel: (413) 781-2801
Fax: (413) 731-5093
scothran@wgby.org

Neil E. Davidson
Commissioner's Office
Office for Mathematics and Science
Department of Education
350 Main Street
Malden, MA 02148-5023
Tel: (781) 338-3463
Fax: (781) 388-3395
ndavidson@doe.mass.edu

William Masalski
25 Cherry Lane
Amherst, MA 01002
Tel: (413) 549-6978
william.masalski@educ.umass.edu

Ruth O'Malley
1085 Pleasant Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Tel: (413) 283-3386
romal@mail.ccsinet.net

COMMITTEES

Mary Alice Wilson Grant
Harold (Spike) Clancy

Membership
Donna Watson

NCTM Representative
Ruth O'Malley

ATMNE Representative
Lyn Heady

Newsletter Editor
Scott L. Trahan
Agawam High School
760 Cooper Street
Agawam, MA 01001
Tel: (413) 821-0530 (W)
Tel: (413) 789-2292 (H)
SLTrahan@aol.com

GENERAL CALL FOR ARTICLES

The ATMNE is looking for articles to be submitted for publication in their journal. Information about submissions can be found in each issue. Remember, "publishing" earns PDP's and can also be part of a portfolio for those applying for National Certification.

Teachers are doing really interesting things in their classrooms and others would like to hear about what is happening in schools in our region.

MATHWEST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Mail to: MATHWEST, P.O. Box 784, Easthampton, MA 01027

Membership Category: Area of Professional Interest:
____ 1 Year Regular (\$15) ____ Elementary
____ 1 Year Full-Time Student (\$5) ____ Middle School
____ 1 Year Full-Time Retired (\$10) ____ Secondary
____ 3 Year Regular (\$40) ____ College

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

*Membership make a great gift for a
new member of your mathematics department!*

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Are you a member of NCTM? YES NO

A member of another NCTM affiliate? YES NO If yes, which one? _____



**MATHWEST WISHES ALL ITS MEMBERS
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY
HOLIDAY SEASON**