

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

MATHWEST NEWS

December 2003 Volume 16, Issue 5

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edition:

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Wilson Grant
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Applied Probability Seminar!!

Friday, January 16th, 2004

It's time for the January Get-Together
at Mohegan Sun!

MATHWEST will be sponsoring an evening
out with a trip to Mohegan Sun Casino for MATH-
WEST members and their guests.

The bus will leave the parking lot next to
Pier 1 in Holyoke at 5 PM. We will leave the ca-
sino at 11 PM and return to Holyoke around 1 AM.
The cost will be \$20 per person. However, each
person will receive a \$10 food voucher and a \$10
gambling voucher.

Registration deadline is January 1st. Looking
inside on page 8 for more details!!

VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE

www.geocities.com/MATHWESTnews

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A Message from Our President

Dear MATHWEST educators,

The next month of school will be trying in many ways. The influence of the coming holidays; the excitement that comes with the approach of Christmas and prospective gifts; the anticipation of vacation time; the extra seasonal hustle and bustle; the prospect of snow and skiing... are all causes of stress for us as well as for our students. This makes teaching even more difficult than usual.

There is an old Chinese proverb that says:

"The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago,
The second best time is now."

Let's make the best possible use of these challenging days before us. I wish each of you courage and patience, creativity and patience, compassion and patience, energy and patience... as you strive to make this NOW moment a teachable moment, rich in benefits for each of your students.

Regardless of the reason you choose to celebrate this holiday season: personal choice, religious, family, tradition, societal pressure, or other, may you find time to savor the best of what the season offers, to rest, to enjoy your family, to gain in personal renewal and growth. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

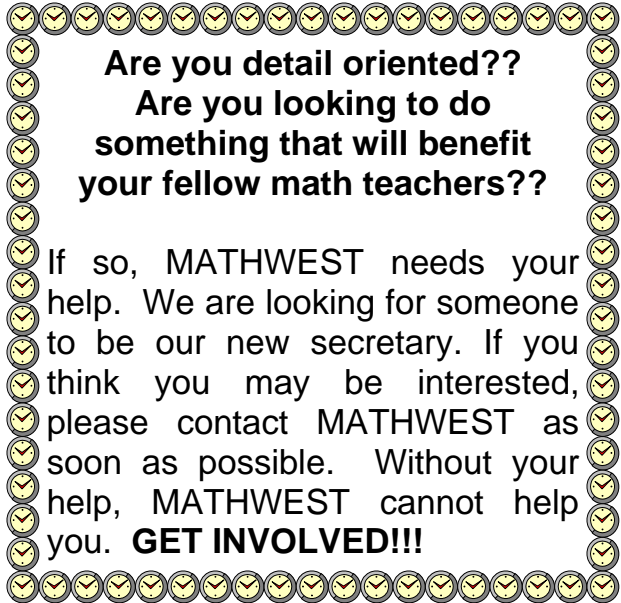
See you at Mohegan Sun in January!

Louise M. Lataille



Don't be left in the dark! Update today!!

Please update your information in our database. Updated addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses will make it easier for us to send you important information regarding MATHWEST business. Without this information, you may miss out on meetings, newsletters, and updates. Please update this information as soon as possible. You can mail this information to MATHWEST or you can e-mail it directly to our new membership coordinator, Cecilia Goncalves at:
goncalves2002@yahoo.com



**Are you detail oriented??
Are you looking to do
something that will benefit
your fellow math teachers??**

If so, MATHWEST needs your help. We are looking for someone to be our new secretary. If you think you may be interested, please contact MATHWEST as soon as possible. Without your help, MATHWEST cannot help you. **GET INVOLVED!!!**

Please fill out the following ballot and return it to:

MATHWEST

PO Box 784

Easthampton, MA 01027

Ballots must be received BEFORE or ON January 2nd, 2004.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Vote for Three (3)

	Ellen Follett
	Marnie Henneman
	Barbara Martowski
	Write In: _____

SECRETARY: Vote for One (1)

	Write In : _____
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(If you are interested in being our next secretary, contact Louise Lataille as soon as possible!)

PRESIDENT ELECT: Vote for One (1)

	Scott Trahan
	Write In: _____

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR: Vote for One (1)

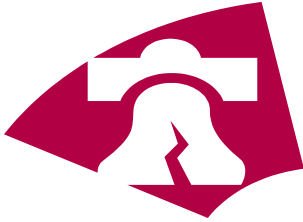
	Cecilia Goncalves
	Write In: _____

EX-OFFICIO BOARD: Vote for Five (5)

	Lyn Heady
	Harold (Spike) Clancy
	Sarah Cothran
	William Masalski
	Ruth O'Malley
	Write In: _____

Professional Development Professional Development

“Defining Mathematics for All” NCTM’s Annual Meeting in Philadelphia April 21st through April 24th, 2004



Philadelphia has much to offer visitors. In addition to Independence Hall, the city is home to the African American History Museum, Fireman’s Hall Museum, and Elfreth’s Alley — a narrow cobblestone street that is the nation’s oldest con-

tinuously inhabited avenue. And Philadelphia also boasts world-class art treasures at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Rodin Museum.

In November NCTM will mail the Philadelphia Preview Brochure to Council members. The Preview Brochure will also be posted in November on the NCTM Web site at www.nctm.org/annual. The NCTM Annual Meeting preregistration forms and hotel reservation form will be included in the Preview Brochure and available on the NCTM website. To help you make your plans early and to save you money, preregister before the deadline of Monday, March 15, 2004.



Volunteer Opportunities at NCTM’s Annual Meeting in Philadelphia

Volunteers are needed to staff the Hospitality Booth and provide attendees with information about local attractions and services, check meeting rooms during room changeovers; assist NCTM staff and customers in the NCTM Bookstore, provide assistance to individuals with ADA requests, update the presentation information posted outside meeting rooms, staff the speaker check-in support desk and speaker support room, recruit and train student helpers, and host and assist attendees in the NCTM Cyber Café and during computer workshop labs.

If you are interested in volunteering a few hours or a day while at the NCTM Annual Meeting, please fill out the Philadelphia Volunteer Form (available online at www.NCTM.org/annual) and mail it to Connie Kelley at 468 Beverly Drive, Cliffwood Beach, NJ 07735. Completed forms can also be faxed to Kelley at (732) 583 - 9458, or the same information can be e-mailed to kconcetta2@aol.com.

Spend your spring break On professional development

Several MATHWEST members will be attending the conference in Philadelphia and would love to have more of our members join them. Many of them have found hotels and train tickets at a more affordable rate than those being offered by NCTM. If you are interested in joining the MATHWEST constituent in Philadelphia, please contact Barbara Markowski. (Her contact information is located on the Board of Directors page at the end of this newsletter.)

Because the NCTM conference is scheduled the same time as our spring break, this is an incredible opportunity to attend some great seminars without worrying about making plans for a substitute!! Make plans to attend as soon as possible!

For a complete, detailed schedule of the events in Philadelphia, please visit the NCTM website:
www.nctm.org/annual
The deadline to preregister is MARCH 15th!!

Calculator Workshop!!

Hampshire Education Collaborative
97 Hawley Street
Northampton, MA
www.collaborative.org

The Hampshire Education Collaborative (HEC) will be holding a Calculator Workshop on March 4th, 2004. After the workshop, MATHWEST members will adjourn for some great pizza. You may go to the HEC website above for more information or you may look for further details in the next MATHWEST newsletter.

MATHWEST **DATES TO REMEMBER**

December

9th ~ AP Calculus Support Group, 4 PM
Bertucci's, West Springfield

January

8th ~ MATHWEST Board Meeting, 4 PM
Friendly's, West Springfield

16th ~ MATHWEST Get-Together
Mohegan Sun Casino

20th ~ AP Calculus Support Group, 4 PM
Bertucci's, West Springfield

UPCOMING EVENTS **DATES COMING SOON!!**

February

AP Calculus Get-Together
Bertucci's, West Springfield

March

4th ~ MATHWEST Board Meeting, 4 PM
Friendly's, West Springfield

MATHWEST Spring Meeting

AP Calculus Get-Together
Bertucci's, West Springfield

April ~ Math Education Month

3rd ~ AP Calculus Practice Exam

AP CALCULUS & AP STATISTICS PRACTICE EXAM **SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2004 from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

Mark your calendars! MATHWEST is again pleased to announce that it will help sponsor an event to provide an exam atmosphere for students in Western Massachusetts to take and receive a score for the most recently released AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, and AP Statistics exam. This will allow students to practice for the actual AP exams, which are scheduled for the first week of May.

All AP mathematics students and their teachers in Western Massachusetts are invited to attend one of the two locations where the exam will be administered. One session will be in Agawam at the First Baptist Church on Main Street. The other tentative location will be in Orange. In case of inclement weather, the snow date is Saturday, April 10th. The cost of \$5 per student will help to defray the cost of the event, which includes lunch for all participants.

Students will start the exam with the open response problems, followed by the multiple-choice sections. This is done to allow time for the instructors to grade the open response problems while the multiple-choice sections are administered. Teachers who attend with their students will be expected to help grade exams, and will be provided resource materials for their classroom.

The registration deadline for participating is Monday, March 22nd. At that time, the teacher should have a completed registration form for each student indicating the exam they will take, and include the \$5 registration fee. Look in the MATHWEST February newsletter for more information and registration forms. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Scott Trahan of Agawam High School at (413) 821-0530 or e-mail him at SLTrahan@aol.com.

Mohegan Sun Trip!

First comes Thanksgiving... then comes Hanukkah... then comes Christmas... then comes Kwanzaa... then comes the annual MATHWEST trip to the Mohegan Sun Casino!! Mark your calendar and get on board. Fill in the blank form at the bottom of this page and return it, along with your payment, by **January 2nd** to:

Cindy Tuthill
2205 Boston Road, Condo H-70
Wilbraham, MA 01095

Last year's trip was a real blast! This year, YOU will help to improve the experience. Here's what you need to know!

- WHO:** MATHWEST members and their family and friends
- DATE:** Friday, January 16th, 2004
- COST:** \$20.00 per person
- BONUS:** Each person will receive a \$10 voucher for food & a \$10 voucher for gambling.
- DEPARTURE:** Leaving from the parking lot near Pier 1 and Better Bedding in Holyoke at 5 PM.
- RETURN:** Leaving Mohegan Sun at 11 PM with an estimated time of arrival back in Holyoke at 1 AM.
- PAYMENT:** Please make checks payable to **MATHWEST**.

MATHWEST member: _____

Number of People in your party (including yourself): _____

List of the names of the People in your Party:

Number of People X \$20.00 = _____ Total Amount Enclosed

*Remember to make checks payable to **MATHWEST**.*

MOHEGAN SUN TRIP

MATHWEST Fall Meeting

The MATHWEST Board would like to thank everyone who attended our fall meeting. It was an excellent time of professional collegiality and socialization!! We started the evening with a quick business meeting. President Louise Lataille gave special thanks to Lyn Heady for all her hard work putting together this evening, Scott Trahan for his dedication to the newsletter, and Liz Kosior for her work as the secretary. Liz will be leaving her position as secretary due to the TWO new additions that will be added to her family soon. Best of luck to Liz!! If you are interested in becoming the new secretary for MATHWEST, please contact MATHWEST as soon as possible. Also, the change to the stipend by-law was passed.



Scott Trahan gave an introductory talk on the use of the dynamic geometry software, Geometer's Sketchpad, with his eager audience.



Louise Lataille spoke on her experiences after receiving her Mary Alice Wilson Grant.

After the business meeting, there were three excellent seminars. Scott Trahan gave an introduction to the use of Geometer's Sketchpad. This seminar gave an excellent overview of this excellent classroom technology. Marnie Henneman presented a workshop on elementary measurement, and gave out some great door prizes to her group. Lyn Heady led up an open forum, which led to some interesting conversations on textbooks, classroom management, and curriculum.

All of these seminars were a source of learning and exploration. Everyone who attended brought away a new piece of information that can help them in their classroom.

After the seminars, we adjourned for a fabulous turkey dinner.

After completing dinner, Louise Lataille, Scott Trahan, Susan Fitts, and Nancy Strouse spoke about what they did with their Mary Alice Wilson Grant monies. Louise used her monies to create a new workshop specifically for girls called 'Creative Happenings for Girls' and to buy manipulatives for this workshop. This program is one-week of intensive mathematics, specifically fractions and measurements. Scott used his monies to create a practice AP Calculus exam. This was a chance for all AP Calculus students to take the exam, enjoy a lunch, and be awarded with their scores and an answer key before they left. This was a great success last year and will be expanded to include TWO sites in Massachusetts and the AP Statistics exam. Susan used her monies to create an after-school program to help encourage poorly-performing students at the middle school level. The program completed two, ten-week periods with about 15 students in each period. They met one day a week after school and worked on various topics in mathematics. Nancy (who is in charge of the grant) spoke about the digital camera she purchased with her grant monies and all of the great activities her students have completed using this camera. Nancy also encouraged MATHWEST members to apply for this grant. NO APPLICATIONS were received by the October deadline. The next deadline is February 1st. See the application on the next page for further details. Apply Today!!

The Mary Alice Wilson Grant

GRANT APPLICATION

While associated with The Five College/Public School Partnership, Mary Alice Wilson was instrumental in the first PIMMS Initiative from which the decision to fund MATHWEST originated. The Mary Alice Wilson Grant is funded by MATHWEST, The Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Western Massachusetts, for the purpose of enhancing mathematics understanding and appreciation in grades K—16. Grants are awarded annually for up to \$500 per project, \$1000 per year. All members of MATHWEST are eligible to receive the award.

Grant proposals will be reviewed and granted by the MATHWEST board on the first meeting following the respective application cutoff dates. All applicants will be notified within two weeks of the Board's meeting. The check award and form for the final grant evaluation will be sent with notification to the grand awardee.

Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____



Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

School System: _____

School Name: _____

Years of Teaching Experience: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Please return proposals by **October 1st** or **February 1st** of each year. Grants are reviewed and awarded in November and March with the final report due by November or March of the following year.

Return proposal to:

Nancy Strouse
MATHWEST
PO Box 784
Easthampton, MA 01027

Summarize your proposal on no more than two pages and include:

- A. goals and objectives
- B. the population to be served
- C. tasks to complete the project
- D. timeline
- E. evaluation instrument
- F. how it will affect the MATHWEST membership
- G. project budget



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Dr. Louise M. Lataille (03-04)
21 Maple Street
Chicopee Falls, MA 01020
Tel: (413) 592-7120
louiselat@hotmail.com

Past President

Lyn Heady (03)
P.O. Box 784
Easthampton, MA 01027
Tel: (413) 584-7041
lheady@hotmail.com

Secretary

Liz Kosior (02-03)
158 Corey Colonial
Agawam, MA 01001
Tel: (413) 786-1388
LSKosior@aol.com

Treasurer

Cindy Tuthill (03-04)
2205 Boston Road H-70
Wilbraham, MA 01095
Tel: (413) 596-3120
teach12753@charter.net

BOARD

Ellen Follett (02-03)
85 Kelly Drive
West Springfield, MA 01089
Tel: (413) 736-1614
follett@wsps.org

Marnie Henneman (02-03)
PO Box 993
Belchertown, MA 01007
Tel: (413) 323-5211

Barbara Martowski (02-03)
965 Ware Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Tel: (413) 283-8995
bmartows@aol.com

Nancy Strouse (03-04)
89 Lower Massachusetts Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089
Tel: (413) 737-3403
nancyst@comcast.com

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

Cecilia A. Goncalves
47 Beachside Drive
Ludlow, MA 01056
Tel: (413) 583-4313
msgoncalves2002@yahoo.com

EX-OFFICIO BOARD

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEES

Historian

Nancy Strouse

Mary Alice Wilson Grant

Nancy Strouse

Membership

Cecelia A. Goncalves

NCTM Representative

Barbara Martowski

ATMNE Representative

Cindy Tuthill

Newsletter Editor

Tricia Lynn

189-I Essex Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151
Tel: (413) 543 - 8585
auntiefishhead@yahoo.com

NE Mathematics Journal

Editorial Advisor

Charles Tranfield

10 Homer Avenue
Keene, NH 03431

Editor's Corner

If you have any articles or professional development opportunities that you feel would benefit other MATHWEST members or if you have any suggestions, please email them to...

MATHWESTnews@yahoo.com

Please send them as either a Microsoft Word document or as an actual e-mail message.

We appreciate your input into this newsletter!! Thank you for your contributions.

P.O. Box 784
Easthampton, MA 01027

MATHWEST NEWS

Happy Holidays!!



Please: If paying by PO, please include the names and addresses of members to be renewed.

Are you a member of NCTM? YES NO

Are you a member of another NCTM affiliate? YES NO

If yes, which one? _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

1 Year Regular (\$15)

1 Year Full-Time Student (\$5)

1 Year Full-Time Retired (\$10)

3 Year Regular (\$40)

Area of Professional Interest:

Elementary

Middle School

Secondary

College

Application Type:

New Membership

Renewal

NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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