

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

MATHWEST NEWS

FEBRUARY 2003 Volume 16, Issue 2

Come To
The Spring General
Membership Meeting!

Inside this
edition:

- ▶ Web Sites with Possible Pi Day Activities
- ▶ Information and Registration Form for the Practice AP Calculus Exam on April 5, 2003
- ▶ Text of a Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws
- ▶ The Profile of a Member of our Board of Directors

March Into Measurement March 6, 2003



Join us at Elms College for our next dinner meeting.

The topic of discussion is Measurement. The session will start at 3:30 PM, with a short business meeting. At that time, we will vote on an amendment to the Association's By-Laws. This will be followed by our guest speakers. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM.

The cost of the evening will be \$10 per person, which includes a delicious dinner. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other members of your mathematics community and network.

So mark your calendars, and mail your check to MATHWEST!



In case of inclement weather, a snow date of March 13th has been scheduled.

Don't you dare miss another meeting!
Look to page 5 for more about this event!



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VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.wgby.org/edu

and click on Teacherline and Professional Development

RESOURCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

COMPASS/Show-Me National Curriculum Conference

The COMPASS and Show-Me Projects will co-host a National Curriculum Conference June 27-29 in Chicago, IL to showcase middle and high school standards-based, NSF-supported mathematics curricula. The conference is intended for teacher leaders, school district administrators, state education personnel, and teacher educators. Participation is limited to 300 people and registration is required by May 1, 2003. A registration form is available at: www.ithaca.edu/compass or showme-center.Missouri.edu/Showcase. If you have any questions, you can call Katy Duggan-Haas at (800) 688-1829.



St. Johnsbury Academy AP Institute Presents: **Tips From The Top**

The Institute has been existence for 17 years providing professional development opportunities for teachers of advanced placement classes. This year, the insititute is on the road with one-day workshops and plans to bring an AP Calculus workshop to Springfield on February 7th. Titled, "Everything You Wanted to Know...", and taught by Steve Olson, the AP Calculus workshop will deal with slope fields, accumulation functions, and calculator programs that can help you teach AP Calculus. An inside look will be given to the 10 hardest single points to earn on the AP Exam. Cost is \$125. For more information or to register contact Elaine Evans at (802) 751-2082 or email apinstitute@stj.k12.vt.us.



Calculus Support Group

The AP Calculus support group will continue its monthly meetings. Any current or future teacher of calculus is encouraged and welcome to attend. The only requirement is MATHWEST membership. To get more information, calculus resources, or emails about future meetings, contact Scott at SLTrahan@aol.com.

NCTM 81st Annual Meeting



**April 9-12, 2003
San Antonio, Texas**

"Building Mathematical Communities"

Hosted by: Alamo District Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Opening Session begins at 5:30 p.m.
on Wednesday, April 9th

Closing Session begins at 2:00 p.m.
on Saturday, April 12th

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Center for Initiatives in Pre-College Education Invites you to join their three summer MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NATURAL SCIENCE

This program leads to an MS degree in three successive summers on the campus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The program emphasizes teachable content, pedagogies and technologies for secondary school classrooms. In addition to the specific courses in the discipline of the teacher, a spirit of collaborative learning will be fostered in core courses of educational technologies. Teachers spend six weeks during each summer and take three courses earning ten credits. During the semesters between summers, all participants will be networked through a server on campus dedicated to this program.

Educational technology is a theme in all three summers of the program and includes instruction in computers and other technologies; WWW access and design; interactive multimedia, and robotics.

For more information, contact Linda Fedigan, CII 9217, RPI, 110 8th Street, Troy, NY 12180 or email her at cipce@rpi.edu. You can also visit their website, www.cipce.rpi.edu/go/msns.

MATHWEST DATE BOOK

February

1st ~ Mary Alice Wilson Grant
Deadline for Proposals

11th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together, 4 PM
Bertucci's Restaurant, West Springfield
4 PM

March

6th ~ Spring Membership Meeting, 3:30 PM
Topic: "March into Measurement"
Location: Elms College

11th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together, 4 PM
Bertucci's Restaurant, West Springfield
4 PM

April

5th ~ AP Calculus AB/BC Practice Exam
First Baptist Church, Agawam

9th - 12th ~ NCTM Annual Meeting
San Antonio, Texas

15th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together, 4 PM
Bertucci's Restaurant, West Springfield

May

8th ~ Board of Directors Meeting, 4 PM
Friendly's Restaurant, West Springfield

20th ~ AP Calculus Get-Together, 4 PM
Bertucci's Restaurant, West Springfield



Figure This!

Math Challenges for Families

Gifts Galore
Exponent has won the grand prize in a radio sweepstakes. His gifts will be delivered over 10 days. On the first day, he gets a kitten. On the second day, he gets two hummingbirds and a kitten. On the third day, he receives three rings, two hummingbirds, and a kitten. This pattern continues for seven more days! The remaining gifts, in order of appearance, include books, boxes of candy, bracelets, bouquets, cologne, CD's and puppies. After 10 days, which gift did he receive most?

Check out more challenges at: www.figurethis.org



THE SPIDER'S WEB

Web Resources for Math



DuPage Children's Museum

www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org

This site has story problems that integrate math. A question is posted every other week but previous questions are listed.

Education Place - Math

www.eduplace.com/math/brain

Pick your grade level and try to solve the math question or challenge of the week!

Fractions Homepage

tqjunior.thinkquest.org/5899

This website is for fraction beginners. Play the game with Jerry the Wombat and learn about fractions.

Multiplication.com

www.multiplication.com

This site contains the techniques, tips, and secrets used by master teachers. It includes activities, games and worksheets.

AP CALCULUS AB/BC PRACTICE EXAM



8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Saturday, April 5, 2003

First Baptist Church of Agawam

MATHWEST is pleased to announce that it will provide an exam atmosphere for students in Western Massachusetts to take and receive a score for the 1998 AP Calculus exam as practice for the actual exam scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2003. Both the Calculus AB and Calculus BC exam will be given.

All AP Calculus students in Western Massachusetts are invited to attend the session. There is no cost for participating in the practice exam. The only requirement is that they are accompanied by a teacher from their school that will assist with the grading.

Students will start 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.

Registration deadline for participating is March 22nd. At that time, each school must provide the name of the teacher who will be attending and a tentative number of students taking each exam. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Scott Trahan of Agawam High School at (413) 821-0530 or email him

Schedule of Events

8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 1998 AP Open Response Section

10:30 Break

10:40 Part A of the 1998 AP Multiple Choice
(No Calculator Allowed.)

11:35 Break

11:40 Part B of the 1998 AP Multiple Choice
(Calculators Required.)

12:30 Lunch

1:00 Solutions and Scores Distributed

DIRECTIONS:

The First Baptist Church is located about a mile before Six Flags Amusement Park on the corner of Main and Elm Streets in Agawam. Take I-91 to Exit 3, Agawam. Go over the South End Bridge, staying in the right lane. Take the ramp at the end of the bridge and go around rotary to get on Route 57. Take Route 57 to the Main Street, Agawam exit. (This is second Main Street exit which is used to go to Six Flags.) The church is located on the right at the second set of traffic lights. It is a white building with parking located off Elm Street.

REGISTRATION:

Fill out the form to the right and send it to:

MATHWEST
C/O Scott L. Trahan
Agawam High School
760 Cooper Street
Agawam, MA 01001

Deadline for registration is **March 22, 2003.**

AP CALCULUS AB/BC PRACTICE EXAMINATION

Teacher's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

How many students are planning to attend?

AP Calculus AB Exam: _____

AP Calculus BC Exam: _____

Please Note: A light breakfast will be served upon arrival. Following the administration of the test, lunch will be served. If you have students who have any special dietary or other requirements, please let us know.



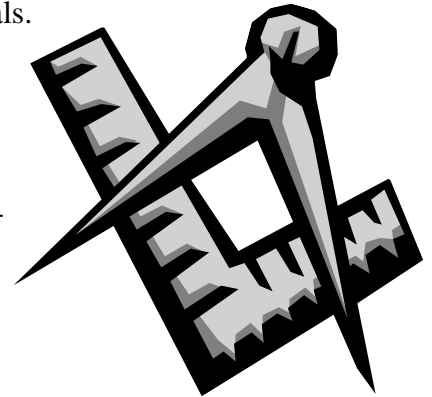
MATHWEST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The topic for this meeting will be measurement. According to NCTM's *Standards for School Mathematics*, measurement activities can and should require a dynamic interaction between students and their environment. Students encounter measurement in such areas as architecture, art, science, commercial design, sports, cooking, shopping, and map reading. The study of measurement shows the usefulness and practical application of mathematics, and students' need to communicate about various measurements highlights the importance of standard units and common measurement systems. Measurement is also a natural context in which to introduce the need for learning about fractions and decimals.

Marnie Henneman, using her out-going personality and sense of humor, will present an array of activities on linear measurement, area and volume for our K-6 members. She will also include some connections that can be made to literature.

Kathy Erickson will present for 7-12 teachers. Some intriguing questions about measurement will be posed and explored. For example, how do the volumes of different cylinders compare given a fixed amount of material? How do you maximize the volume? Can you explain the Frank Lloyd Wright puzzles involving disappearing area? All these and more will be answered.

Thursday, March 6, 2003
The College Center, Elms College
Program Starts at 3:30 PM
Snow Date: March 13th



DIRECTIONS TO ELMS COLLEGE:

Take the Mass Pike to Exit 4. From the Pike, take Rt. 91 South to Exit 12. Take Rt. 391 North towards Chicopee. Take Exit 2 (the first exit after leaving Route 91) onto Center Street. At the end of the ramp, turn right. Go through the traffic light, and take your first right on South Street. Proceed up the hill to the next traffic light and take a right on Springfield Street. The Elms will be on the left.



MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Which workshop will you be attending?

_____ **K-6: Marnie Henneman**

_____ **7-12: Kathy Erickson**

Which type of registration do you need?

_____ **\$10 for members (includes dinner)**

_____ **\$25 for members (includes membership renewal)**

_____ **\$25 for non-members (includes 1 year membership)**

If you need to renew your membership, please also fill out the form on the back page of this newsletter.

Send your check and this form to: **MATHWEST, c/o Cindy Tuthill, 2205 Boston Road Unit H-70, Wilbraham, MA 01095**

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Celebrate Pi Day ~ March 14th

Pi Day begins at precisely 1:59 p.m. on March 14th (3/14/1:59) to celebrate the special number and to foster creativity and enjoyment of mathematics by students. Coincidentally, the date is also Albert Einstein's birthday.

Pi (π) - the mathematical constant - is the ratio of any circle's circumference to the length of its diameter. Starting with 3.141592653589793..., the decimal digits of pi continue indefinitely, without ever repeating a fixed sequence of digits. Mathematicians have been fascinated by pi for ages. They are still trying to find the answer to a question that the Greeks were asking 2500 years ago, "Do the numbers following 3.141592 occur randomly?"

Visit the following Web sites for ideas to help kick off a Pi Day celebration at your school:

- **Pi Day/Math Awareness Day Contest**
mathmuseum.org/piday.htm

This contest encourages students (grades 4-12) to create mathematics projects for display in the Goudreau Museum of Mathematics in Art and Science in New Hyde park, NY. The deadline for entries is March 21.

- **Pi Day on the "Math with Mr. Herte" site**
mathwithmrherte.com/pi_day.htm
- **Pi Pages on the Internet**
joyofpi.com/pilinks.htm
- **Pi Day from the Exploratorium**
www.exploratorium.edu/pi/pi98
- **Pi Day sites from the Math Forum**
mathforum.com/t2t/faq/faq.pi.html

Corrections

The date of the next MATHWEST General Membership Meeting was misprinted in the January issue as March 16th. It will take place March 6th at Elms College.

The date of the AP Calculus Practice Exam was April 12th. However due to scheduling conflicts, it has been changes to April 5th.

Proposed Amendment to the MATHWEST By-Laws

The Board of Directors of MATHWEST have proposed the following amendment to the By-Laws of the Association. The following amendment would be to "ARTICLE I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD" under the new subheading, "STIPENDS (ANNUAL)." The amendment will be presented and voted on at the general membership meeting to be held on March 6, 2003.

STIPENDS (ANNUAL)

The following stipends will be paid to the officers following their year of service to the Association. The President shall receive \$200. The Immediate Past President/President-Elect and Treasurer shall receive \$100. The Secretary shall receive \$50.

Due to the importance of their roles to the Association, the Membership Chair will receive \$50 annually, and the Newsletter Editor will receive \$100 per newsletter. However, the number of newsletters is not to exceed five per calendar year.

In addition, for representing the Association at NCTM's Delegate Assembly at the National Meeting, the MATHWEST delegate will receive \$50.

Meet the MATHWEST Board **Cindy Tuthill**

In the next few issues of *MATHWEST News*, we will try to introduce you to our members that make up the MATHWEST Board of Directors. In this issue, we highlight Cindy Tuthill, our treasurer.

Cindy has been a teacher at Cathedral High School in Springfield for the past nine years. Her membership in MATHWEST is for just as long. She enjoys mathematics and is interested in pursuing innovative methods to teach the subject.

Besides living the busy life of a wife and mother. Cindy works at the Big Y Help Line a couple of nights a week, answering callers' questions about what else, but mathematics. She also serves as the advisor for Cathedral High School's Mathletes Team.

Cindy has just been re-elected to a second term as treasurer. She was also the Hospitality Chair at the NCTM Conference in Springfield in November 2000.



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Nancy Strouse

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Position Open

The Board of Directors of MATHWEST is looking for an energetic and creative person to take on the role of Newsletter Editor starting in January 2003. The person would publish approximately four eight-page newsletters, helping to promote mathematics education while increasing communication between teachers in Western Massachusetts. A small stipend is offered.

Interested persons should contact:
SLTrahan@aol.com for more details.



*There's a Pot Full of
Golden Opportunities
Waiting for You Inside!*

MATHWEST NEWS

**P.O. Box 784
Easthampton, MA 01027**

MATHWEST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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

Membership Category:

- _____ 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

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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? _____

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