

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

# MATHWEST NEWS

September 2003 Volume 16, Issue 4

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edition:

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Wilson Grant  
Application

★ The History of  
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★ Websites for  
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teachers

★ NCTM's Annual  
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## THE FALL

# MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 16, 2003



Our next meeting will be a dinner meeting to be held at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton. Registration will begin at 3:30 PM. The business meeting will begin at 4:00 PM. Important changes to the by-laws will be voted on. Please come and let your voice be heard!

The cost will be \$10 for the evening. Mark your calendar now and mail your check to MATHWEST so you don't miss this great meeting.

Look inside for more information about this event! Please feel free to duplicate page 5 and distribute the information on this meeting to your colleagues.



VISIT OUR WEB SITE

[www.wgby.org/edu](http://www.wgby.org/edu)

and click on Teacherline and Professional Development

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# A Message from Our President

A brand new school year lies before us...2003-2004... Where will it lead us? How will we respond to the unknown before us? Where will we lead our students?

As educators, each of us faces a brand new and multi-faceted challenge in this brand new school year -

**Personal** : Each class of students calls us to rise to the best of ourselves as we strive to meet them in the heart of their individual and collective needs.

I wish you the heart and sensitivity to touch each of your students in ways that they, in turn, will be willing to strive to attain their personal best.

**Intellectual** : Intellectual stimulation helps us to be role models of learning for our students and pushes us to grow and expand our own talents, strengths, and abilities.

I wish you new discoveries, new horizons, and new insights; new vision, new enthusiasm for learning, new areas of interest, and new opportunities for intellectual growth.

**Pedagogical** : Teaching is not a sterile and routine task. It requires openness, new perspectives, fresh ideas, a variety of methods, and a flexibility that easily adapts to persons, situations, and academic content.

I wish you the daring to try something new, to reach beyond the usual, and to risk a new approach to something you have taught before.

**Disciplinary** : Fortunately or unfortunately, discipline is a necessary support to learning. Part of our responsibility as educators is to discipline students (when the situation warrants it) and to teach discipline, especially self-discipline, to our students.

I wish you insight and creativity in finding new and better ways to model and inspire self-discipline and to handle the daily classroom situations that try men`s (and women`s) souls`.

**Professional** : Dealing with parents, students, principals, school boards, co-workers, and support staff, often under the pressure of time and the stress of situations, requires maturity, ponderance, the ability to count to 10, and a true sense of what it means to be a professional educator .

I wish you the presence of mind to weigh the who and the what before you and to always speak kindly and respectfully, act with conviction and consideration of persons, and make decisions in calmness and for the good of ALL involved.

To each and everyone, have a wonderful school year! See you at the Fall meeting!

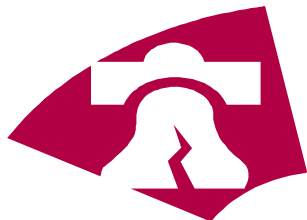


*Don't be left in the dark! Update today!!*

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 email it directly to our new membership coordinator, Cecilia Goncalves at [goncalves2002@yahoo.com](mailto:goncalves2002@yahoo.com) .

# RESOURCES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**“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 continuously 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](http://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, pre-register before the deadline of Monday, March 15, 2004.



**TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS  
AT MOHEGAN SUN CASINO!!**

**Mark your calendars now! MATHWEST will taking a trip to Mohegan Sun on January 16th, 2004. Details will follow in the next newsletter. Start practicing your craps toss, your poker face, and your probability calculations. We look forward to seeing everyone there!**

## **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](http://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 [kconchetta2@aol.com](mailto:kconchetta2@aol.com).

## **CALCULUS SUPPORT GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO MEET**

The AP Calculus support group will continue its monthly meetings at Bertucci’s Pizzeria in West Springfield. (See the MATHWEST calendar for specific dates.) 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](mailto:SLTrahan@aol.com).

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Your NCTM Election Ballot must be received by October 31, 2003. Send it your ballot today!!

## MATHWEST DATES TO REMEMBER

### September

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

16th ~ **AP Calculus Support Group, 4 PM**  
Bertucci's, West Springfield

### October

14th ~ **AP Calculus Support Group, 4 PM**  
Bertucci's, West Springfield

16th ~ **Fall Membership Meeting, 4 PM**  
Clarion Hotel, Northampton

27th—29th ~ **NCTM Academy Institute**  
Mystic, CT

30th ~ **MATHWEST Board Meeting, 4 PM**  
Friendly's, West Springfield

### November

6th - 8th ~ **ATMNE Meeting**  
Looking Back and Looking Ahead  
Manchester, NH

19th ~ **AP Calculus Support Group, 4 PM**  
Bertucci's, West Springfield

### December

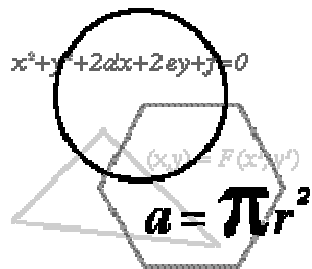
9th ~ **AP Calculus Support Group, 4 PM**  
Bertucci's, West Springfield

### 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

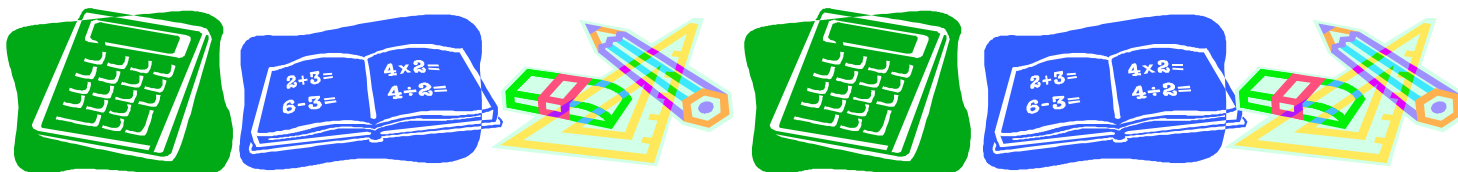


## NCTM's Algebra Academy in Mystic, CT, deadline is September 26th!!

This three-day academy take place from October 27th through 29th. It is \$349 for NCTM members and \$449 for non-members. This academy will cover four different topics within algebra.

1. Patterns, Relations, and Functions
2. Represent Situations with Algebraic Symbols
3. Model Quantitative Relationships
4. Analyze Change

For more information, you can log on to the NCTM website at [www.nctm.org/academy](http://www.nctm.org/academy) or you can call 1-800-235-7566.



# Odds and Evens

## WEB BYTES

**Starship Maths** provides resources for teachers and parents, along with six different interactive games suitable for children five to seven years old.  
[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/starship/maths](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/starship/maths)

**Allmath.com** offers mathematics tools that include flash cards and metric converters, games, reference pages, and expert advice to improve mathematics skills.

[allmath.com](http://allmath.com)

**E-zgeometry.com** provides printable lesson notes, support materials, helpful links, practice quizzes, and weekly mathematics challenges for geometry students and teachers.

[e-zgeometry.com](http://e-zgeometry.com)

Enter a problem, click for an explanation, and get the answer. **Discovery School's Webmath** provides instant solutions for mathematics problems and offers homework help for students.

[school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/webmath](http://school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/webmath)

The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Science (INFORMS) offers a series of free instructional modules with real-world mathematics concepts that high school mathematics teachers and students can use in the classroom.

[hsor.org](http://hsor.org)

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### **Curricula Seminar Opportunity**

The EDC K-12 Math Center is offering its Considering New Curricula seminar on November 5-6 in Newton, MA. This two-day seminar focuses on the features of three comprehensive elementary curriculum programs, four comprehensive middle school curriculum programs, and five comprehensive high school curriculum programs, and the factors involved in choosing among them. Participating district teams learn about effective methods for selecting, piloting, and implementing the programs. See [www2.edc.org/mcc/sem\\_k12home.asp](http://www2.edc.org/mcc/sem_k12home.asp) for details.

## **"Looking Back & Looking Ahead" ATMNE's Centennial Celebration 1903-2003 November 6-8, 2003 Manchester, New Hampshire**

Sixty-one sessions, 78 workshops and 7 mini-courses for a total of 146 educational opportunities will be offered during this three-day celebration.

Five "centennial speakers" have been invited - for Thursday, Waldeck Mainville and Art Johnson; for Friday, Carol Greenes and Margaret Kenney and for Saturday, Father Stanley Bezuska. The Balomenos Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr. Carol Findell from Boston University on Thursday from 4 to 5 pm. From 5 pm to 7 pm the Balomenos Reception is being held in two locations:

A) Expo Center: For those of you who have never experienced a Family Math Night now is your chance. In the Exhibit Hall (Expo Center) there will be a working model of a Family Math Night. Come have some fun! You can try promiscuous problems from old textbooks. In 1900 to 1910 the authors were very creative. You might want to take the test given to potential teachers in New Hampshire back in 1903! There will be an exhibit of ATMNE history and a cash bar will be available from 5 until 7 pm. Prentice Hall has graciously sponsored the Hors d'oeuvres.

B) SEE Science Center: Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be available. You will be able to explore theories of science ranging from bubble-making to space and momentum through more than 60 hands-on exhibits. See what the SEE Science Center can do for your classroom. Gift shop with inexpensive math/science related items will be open.

On Friday there will be two special functions. In the morning a breakfast will be held with guest speaker Dale Seymour whose talk is titled "Bandwagons, Basics, Common Sense, and Tessellating Pancakes". Sessions and workshops will run from 9 am until 5 pm. In the evening, ATMNE's 100th Birthday Celebration and Banquet will include ATMNE history and entertainment by Len Cabral, Master Storyteller. There will be many things to do and learn during this three-day conference. The cost for a three-day ATMNE member registration is \$80, while a one-day registration is \$60. The cost of a hotel room at The Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn is \$95 plus tax. Hopefully you will be able to attend all three days even if it is for just an afternoon and evening on one of the days. Look for your copy of the program in your school mailbox the first week of September.

For more information visit NHTM's website:

[www.nhtm.org](http://www.nhtm.org).

If you would like to help at the conference, please contact Karen Graham at [kgraham@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:kgraham@cisunix.unh.edu) or Judy Curran Buck at [buckj@ccsderry.org](mailto:buckj@ccsderry.org).

# MATHWEST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 16, 2003

Clarion Hotel, 1 Atwood Drive, Northampton

4 PM

## Measurement and Geometry using Sketchpad ~ An Intro for Beginners

Have you seen what dynamic geometry software can do for the classroom? This presentation will discuss how students can explore issues of measurement and geometric concepts in a computer environment. Practical classroom ready materials and lesson plans will be shared.

### Open Forum

*Peter Kostek and Lyn Heady, with their combined seven decades of teaching experience, will lead an open discussion of any educational issues that our members feel need addressed. Bring your concerns and ideas!!*

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4:00 PM Business Meeting &  
Vote on new by-laws  
4:20 PM PRESENTATIONS  
(Choose one)  
5:30 PM DINNER

#### REGISTRATION:

Fill out the form to the right and send it, along with your check payable to MATHWEST, to:

MATHWEST  
P.O. Box 784  
Easthampton, MA 01027

#### DIRECTIONS:

For directions, please see the following website:  
[www.hampshirehospitality.com](http://www.hampshirehospitality.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Which workshop will you be attending?

\_\_\_ *Measurement and Geometry Using Sketchpad*

\_\_\_ *Open Forum*

Which type of registration do you need?

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

\_\_\_ *\$25 for members (includes dinner and membership renewal)*

\_\_\_ *\$25 for non-member (includes dinner and 1 year membership)*

**Note:** If you need a membership, please also fill out the form on the back page of the newsletter.

# A History of MATHWEST

The Five College/Public School Partnership was established in 1984. At this time, the Partnership offered the first of three cycles of GE/PIMMS Secondary Mathematics Project. The goal of this was "to provide teachers with an opportunity to be mathematicians and to learn about new developments in mathematics especially those related to the use of computers and graphics." Participants were expected to provide service to their professional community. Being concerned about the lack of opportunities for professional development for Western Massachusetts's teachers, the PIMMS Fellows chose to organize a professional organization that they called MATHWEST.

MATHWEST was founded in the mid-eighties. In an early constitution, its purpose is stated:

1. "Promote interest in mathematics and to encourage effective teaching..."
2. Promote an on-going relationship between teachers of mathematics on elementary, middle, secondary, and post-secondary levels.
3. Provide information as to courses of study and other relevant activities and resources..."

Martin Conway was the first MATHWEST president. The first meeting was held on November 20, 1984 at the Northampton Hilton. Despite adverse weather, seventy-four math teachers were in attendance! Shortly after its founding, MATHWEST affiliated with NCTM and ATMNE, thus expanding its access to professional resources.

MATHWEST has had many successes over the years. In 1993, MATHWEST hosted the professionally and financially successful 1993 ATMNE fall conference. In 2000, MATHWEST hosted the NCTM Eastern Regional Conference, surpassing its goal of having 2000 participants in the year 2000. In honor of Mary Alice Wilson, a GE/PIMMS founding Fellow, MATHWEST established the Mary Alice Wilson Grant, in which the association awards "up to \$1000 per year to an area educator for the purpose of enhancing mathematics understanding and appreciation in grades K - 16 in Western Massachusetts." MATHWEST also participated in NCTM teams.

As MATHWEST nears its twentieth anniversary, while being proud of its achievements, it is time to look again at our mission. As times and demands change, we strive to be flexible in meeting our goal, that of the original PIMMS founders, namely to enhance the professional development of the math teachers of Western Massachusetts. As original PIMMS founding fellow and current board member, Ruth O'Malley, stated "teachers in Western Massachusetts need to talk to one another, to teacher outside their own school district."

## 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 October 16th, 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.

# 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.*

**Name of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School System:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Years of**

**Teaching Experience:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return proposals by **October 1, 2003 or February 1, 2004**. 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

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## COMMITTEES

**Mary Alice Wilson Grant**  
**Nancy Strouse**

### Membership

**Cecelia A. Goncalves**

### NCTM Representative

**Ruth O'Malley**

### ATMNE Representative

**Cindy Tuthill**

### Newsletter Editor

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### NE Mathematics Journal

#### Editorial Advisor

**Charles Tranfield**  
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## Editor's Corner

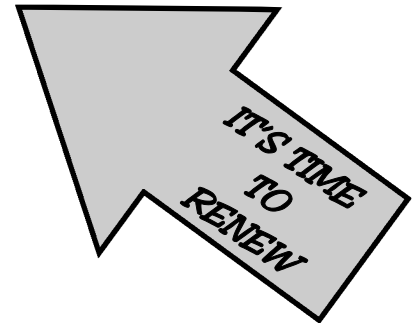
If you have any articles or professional development opportunities that you feel would benefit other MATHWEST members or if you have any suggestions, please email them to... [MATHWESTnews@yahoo.com](mailto:MATHWESTnews@yahoo.com).

Please send the as either a Microsoft Word document or as an actual email message.

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

P.O. Box 784  
Easthampton, MA 01027

# MATHWEST NEWS



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

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? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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