

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

MATHWEST NEWS

December 2003 Volume 17, Issue 4

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Test Your Probability Skills!

Friday, January 14th, 2005

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 4:45 PM. We will leave the
casino at 11 PM and return to Holyoke around 1
AM. The cost will be \$25 per person. However,
each person will receive a \$10 food voucher and a
\$10 gambling voucher.

Registration deadline is January 4th. Looking
inside on page 5 for more details!!

Please remember that your membership
includes a tandem membership to ATMNE!
Look for their mailings in your mailbox!

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A Message from Our President

Facing the end of another calendar year affords us a time for reflection on the past year and musings on the new year ahead. It seems unbelievable that my tenure as President of MATHWEST is already coming to a close. The past two years have flown by because they were filled with multiple activities and new challenges that ranged from weeding out the MATHWEST membership ranks running a membership drive, and establishing a tradition of Probability Workshops in the real world: now known as our annual trip to Mohegan Sun. In addition, there were our usual Fall and Spring membership meetings and the ATMNE and NCTM Conferences within the larger Northeast area.

The initial challenge of replacing three Board members who had to leave for personal reasons made the beginning of my term a bit hectic, but the of the people who filled these positions has made the work easier in the end. Soliciting local merchants for discounts for MATHWEST members, seeking innovative and creative ways of attracting new members, and constantly seeking fresh and better ways to serve you, have been an integral part of our work in the past two years. I eagerly await the day when MATHWEST will be a household word for teachers and a natural place for them to turn for resources, help, and advice when faced with Math-Education problems and challenges...

We have plans for a rather interesting and engaging, "Full Day" Spring meeting already in the works, and a MATHWEST web site is just waiting "to be born." The AP Calculus Practice Test Day is presently well defined. In addition, we are already thinking ahead to helping our closest NCTM affiliate, Connecticut's ATOMIC, when they host the ATMNE Regional Fall Conference, in Hartford, in September 2005. May we never stop dreaming and striving to make mathematics education an outstanding experience for ourselves and for our students.

In conclusion, I would like to extend a most sincere thank you to each of the MATHWEST Board members. They have been my constant help and support during the past two years. I am most grateful to each of them and for the gifts that each one has brought to our bimonthly meetings. Now, our President- Elect, Scott Trahan, lies in the wings, ready and eager to take the helm and move us forward. I wish him all the best during his time as President and promise my presence, support, help, and encouragement all the way. Good Luck, Scott!

Seasons Greetings to one and all! May you and your families savor and enjoy the very best that this time has to offer. See you on January 14th !

Are you a new mathematics teacher? Having problems finding your bearings?

Then come to the New Teacher's Forum! A monthly meeting to discuss issues pertinent to new math teachers. This month's topic will be Classroom Management. The meeting will be hosted by Cecilia Goncalves and will be held at the Hubbard Memorial Library in Ludlow from 4 PM to 5 PM on January 20, 2005. If you know anyone who would like to attend or would like to attend yourself, please contact Cecilia via e-mail (msgoncalves2002@yahoo.com) or call her at 413-374-9901.

MATHWEST DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY

- 6 **MATHWEST Board Meeting**
4 PM; Feeding Hills, MA
- 14 **Trip to Mohegan Sun Casino**
4:45 PM – 1 AM; Leave from Pier I, Holyoke
- 20 **New Teacher Forum**
4 PM; Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow
- 25 **AP Calculus Support Group**
3 – 4:30 PM; Ludlow High School

FEBRUARY

- 15 **Spring Conference Early Registration Deadline**
Teacher of the Year Nominations Due

MARCH

- 1 **AP Calculus Support Group**
3 – 4:30 PM; Ludlow High School
- 4 **MATHWEST Board Meeting**
4 PM; Friendly's Restaurant, West Springfield
- 14 **Pi Day**

MARCH

- 18 **Spring Conference Registration Deadline**
- 24 **Spring Conference: "Hands-On Mathematics"**
7:30 AM – 3:15 PM; Springfield Marriott
- 29 **AP Calculus Support Group**
3 – 4:30 PM; Ludlow High School

APRIL

* * * Math Education Month * * *

- 2 **Practice AP Calculus & Statistics Exam**
8 AM – 1 PM, First Baptist Church, Agawam
- 6 – 9 **83rd NCTM Annual Meeting**
Anaheim, CA
- 26 **AP Calculus Support Group**
3 – 4:30 PM; Ludlow High School

MAY

- 5 **MATHWEST Board Meeting**
4 PM; Friendly's Restaurant, West Springfield

SEPTEMBER

- 8 **MATHWEST Board Meeting**
4 PM; Friendly's Restaurant, West Springfield

MATHWEST SPRING MEETING HANDS-ON MATH

Join MATHWEST for an informative day of mathematical fun!
Thursday, March 24, 2005
Springfield Marriott

The various sessions and workshops will provide teachers at all levels with new ideas, tips, and techniques to improve your mathematical teaching. See and participate in demonstrations of some of the latest in technology for the classroom, including Geometer's Sketchpad and the TI-Navigator. Catch up with old friends and build lasting relationships with colleagues from around Western Massachusetts.

The tentative cost will be \$50.00, which includes a light lunch.

A brochure with complete details will be mailed to all MATHWEST members at the end of January. The deadline for registration will be at the beginning of March, so be sure to check your mailbox for this important information.

Tentative Schedule:

7:30—8:00	Registration (Coffee and Danish will be served)
8:00—10:00	Session #1
10:15—12:15	Session #2
12:15—1:15	Luncheon
1:15—3:15	Session #3

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 4th** to:

MATHWEST
PO Box 139
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0139

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 14th, 2004
- COST:** \$25.00 per person
- BONUS:** Each person will receive a \$10 voucher for food & a \$10 voucher for gambling.
- DEPARTURE:** Leaving from the parking lot south of Pier 1 in Holyoke at 4:45 PM. It is the lot across from the Barnes & Noble. At the light, turn left into the lot.
- 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 \$25.00 = _____ Total Amount Enclosed

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

MOHEGAN SUN TRIP

The Mary Alice Wilson Grant

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. Applicants do not need to be employed by a school district. Only members of MATHWEST are eligible to receive the award. You may be asked to present your work at either or conference or in the MATHWEST newsletter. Grant monies may not be used for conference fees, transportation, or substitute costs.

A complete grant application will involve the following information and will need to be as specific as possible:

- Audience/Grade level to be served
- Title and Description of Project
- Goals and objectives (both mathematical or other)
- Timeline for completion
- Description of assessment process
- Budget Breakdown

(Please note that stipends can be no more than 40% of your total budget.)

Grant proposals will be reviewed and granted by the MATHWEST board on the first meeting following the respective application cutoff dates of October 1st and February 1st. 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. Contact Nancy Strouse via the MATHWEST address or e-mail her directly at Nancyst@comcast.net.

AP CALCULUS GET-TOGETHERS

Please note that the AP Calculus Get-Togethers are no longer being held at Bertucci's!! They are being held in conjunction with Ludlow High School. Please contact Scott Trahan for further information at SLTrahan@aol.com. Information about the spring AP practice tests will be coming in the next newsletter. So, stay tuned!!

NCTM WEB BYTES

Math TV is an Internet learning project designed to help middle school students develop problem solving skills. Visit their website at www.mathtv.org.

Funbrain allows children from pre-K to grade 8 to practice their math skills by playing games online. Visit their website at www.funbrain.com.

Count Us In illustrates exercises to help younger children grasp basic number concepts through cartoons of everyday activities. Visit their website at www.abc.net.au/countusin/default.htm



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Editor's Corner

Every newsletter, we will be introducing you to the MATHWEST Board. If you see them, say hello.

This month.... meet your newsletter editor, Tricia Lynn. Tricia is in her third year as a math teacher at South Hadley High School after spending two years at Wilbraham & Monson Academy. She recently finished the MME Program at WPI. In her spare time, she writes women's fiction novels and enjoys traveling abroad, and movies and music of all genres.



P.O. Box 139
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0139

MATHWEST NEWS

Happy Holidays!!



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 \$ _____

- _____ 3 Year Regular (\$40)
- _____ 1 Year Full-Time Retired (\$10)
- _____ 1 Year Full-Time Student (\$5)
- _____ 1 Year Regular (\$15)

Membership Category:

Area of Professional Interest:

- _____ Elementary
 - _____ Middle School
 - _____ Secondary
 - _____ College
- Application Type: _____ New Membership
 _____ Renewal

Mail to: MATHWEST, P.O. Box 139, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0139

MATHWEST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM