

NEMATYC NEWS

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Newsletter of the New England Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

Spring, 2020

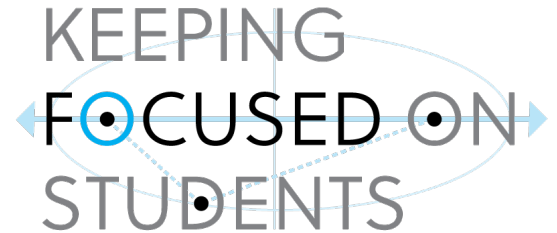
ANNOUNCING

NEMATYC 2020 Conference

NEMATYC’s 46th Annual Conference will be hosted at **Massasoit Community College**, Saturday April 4, 2020. The theme is “Keeping Focused on Students.” Conference Co-chairs are Kerryn Snyder and Alex Cotter.

Details in this newsletter.

To propose a paper or session, go to <http://nematyc.info/PROPOSAL/>



From the NEMATYC President

Hello friends,

I hope that you had a great holiday, and are back from winter break refreshed and ready for a great semester. My semester is

off to an awesome start. I have fantastic students. They are working hard and I am just trying to hold up my end of the bargain.

Speaking of holding up my end of the bargain, my theme for this semester is personal responsibility. Over winter break I did some soul-searching, and I feel like this is an area my classes have struggled with in recent semesters. What’s worse, I feel like I’ve been accommodating and enabling this a bit more each semester as the job wears me down. This semester, I added a personal responsibility statement to my syllabus, and I’m making it a major focus in all of my classes.

What are our students’ responsibilities as students? Students are responsible for doing what it takes to learn the material. They are responsible

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From the AMATYC Regional Vice President

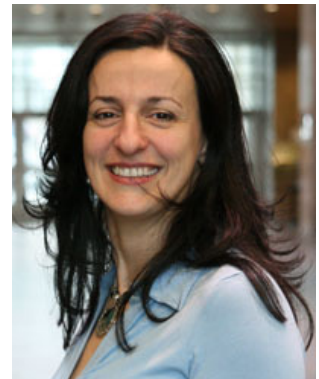
Dear NEMATYC Colleagues,

Happy New Year and happy beginning for your Spring 2020 semester/quarter.

It was great to see many of you in Milwaukee last fall. We had a great conference with recognitions of NEMATYC folks that brought several awards in the Northeast Region.

Thank you to all!

On the faculty side, Aisha Arroyo, once again, was the top scorer of the Faculty Math League and led a practice session for the Northeast Region the night before. (See related story on page 11.)



Continued on page 3

From the NEMATYC President, continued from page 1

for attending class, and paying attention during and participating in class. Outside of class, they are responsible for reading, doing their homework, and studying for exams. Much as I'd like to sometimes, I can't do these things for students. Nor can I force them to do them if they are unwilling, regardless of how much time and effort I put in. This is college, my students are adults, they make adult decisions, and need to live with the consequences.

I'm not student-bashing here. My experience is that when my students don't hold up their end of the bargain, as often as not they have very good reasons for not doing so. Working at a community college, my students have complicated lives, and life often gets in the way. I do my best not to make assumptions as to the cause or to otherwise judge them. That said, as students they do have responsibilities, and if they can't meet them, then there isn't much that I can do.

What are our responsibilities as faculty? I consider it my responsibility to provide clear, high-quality instruction and to assess students' understanding of the material fairly. When situations call for it, I am responsible for applying professional judgement based on my experience and the particulars of the situation. Over and above this, I feel that I have a responsibility to provide reasonable support to students who are interested in it, and to make sure that all students know that that support is available.

Outside of the classroom, I am a professional, and so I am responsible for doing those things that professionals do. I need to stay current in my field by reading appropriate material. I need to understand shifts, innovations, and initiatives in policy and practice. I need to attend professional development opportunities and professional conferences.

This, of course, is where NEMATYC comes in. Events like the Spring Conference and the Fall Dinner provide high quality professional development that allow us to meet our responsibilities as professionals. They give us the opportunity to meet with our colleagues and discuss what's happening in our profession. NEMATYC gives us the opportunity to sharpen our professional judgement. Our organization does all of this, and does so in a way that is fun and fresh every year.

Of course, if you are reading this, I imagine that you are well aware of the benefits of participation in NEMATYC. What I would ask everyone to do is to spread the word. The Spring Conference is coming up on April 3rd and 4th at Massasoit Community College in Brockton, MA. Please encourage your department members to attend and get involved. Imagine how much stronger NEMATYC be if we could all convince just one new person from our departments to attend.

Alex Cotter
NEMATYC President
Massasoit Community College

JOIN NEMATYC

You are a member if you attended the Spring conference last year at Quincy College, or if you mailed in your \$10 membership fee, or if you attended the Fall dinner meeting, or if you register for this spring's conference.

Not a member?

Join by sending the \$10.00 annual membership fee, payable to NEMATYC, to

Aisha Arroyo, NEMATYC Treasurer
Middlesex Community College
591 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730

From the AMATYC Regional Vice President, continued from page 1

We are very thankful to Aisha and all those who attended, as we managed to get our recognition plaque back! (Picture on page 1)



The Student Research League team from Holyoke CC won third place in the 2019 competition. Congratulations to students Rebecca Rosenblum, Richard Megarry, and Colin Devine for their award winning submission.

After such a great accomplishment, I hope more Northeast faculty will consider mentoring a Student Research League Team. Registration is now open and closes on March 15, 2020. The dates for the 2020 AMATYC MRL are March 20 until April 6, 2020. More information can be found at the SRL website: <https://amatyc.site-ym.com/page/StudentResLeague>



I also hope many of you made the February 1st submission deadline to present at the next AMATYC Annual Conference, in Spokane. Our conference committee has already started getting busy with creating an amazing conference program. Please reserve the dates and start planning your trip to Spokane for November 12-15, 2020. As always, we look forward to hearing about all the great things happening in the Northeast.



Until the annual conference, there are many other professional development opportunities AMATYC has to offer:

- You may want to attend a webinar or watch a past webinar; more information is available at <https://amatyc.site-ym.com/page/Webinars>.
- You may apply for a Traveling Workshop grant; proposals are due by February 15th; follow the link for details: <https://amatyc.site-ym.com/page/TravelingWorkshops>.
- If you are in your first four years of teaching, you may apply to be a Project ACCESS Fellow; the deadline is May 15: <https://amatyc.site-ym.com/page/ACCESS>.

AMATYC is also excited to provide its members with an advanced communication tool. MyAMATYC is our latest initiative to assist you with connecting with AMATYC groups and finding resources. Please use the new my.amatyc.org community platform to join discussions, look for resources as you prepare your courses, and stay connected. This site is still being refined, so please feel free to pass along any issues that arise so they can be fixed.

Also, remember we have added new perks to our Institutional Membership; please try to point out these opportunities to your administrators and deans and encourage them to join.

I am planning on visiting you at Massasoit CC on April 4. I look forward to attending presentations and connecting with everyone. I hope to see many of you there. Other conferences in our region are scheduled as follows:

- OCMA Winter 2020 PD Day, Women in STEM, February 8, 2020, Seneca College, Markham Campus. <https://www.theocma.org/>
- NYSMATYC Annual Conference, April 17-19, 2020, Best Western Plus, Kingston, NY. <http://www.nysmatyc.org/conf2020/>
- OCMA 40th Annual Conference, May 20-22, 2020, Fern Resort, Ramara, ON. <https://www.theocma.org/annual-conference-2020/>

I would love to chat more with you in person, via email, or on social media. Please join our AMATYC Northeast Affiliates Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1726418054346506/> or stay in touch via email at sophia.georgiakaki@amatyc.org. I am looking forward to hearing from you!

Sophia Georgiakaki
AMATYC Northeast Regional Vice President

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

NEMATYC 2020 Conference

NEMATYC's 46th Annual Conference will be
hosted at

Massasoit Community College
Saturday April 4, 2020.

KEEPING
FOCUSED ON
STUDENTS

To propose a paper or session, go to

<http://nematyc.info/PROPOSAL/>

Greetings from your 2020 conference co-chairs! We are very excited to announce that the Spring NEMATYC Conference will take place at Massasoit Community College in Brockton, Massachusetts this year. We hope to see you on Saturday, April 4th for our annual conference.



The theme this year is Keeping Focused on Students. Here at Massasoit, our students are not only our mission, but also our greatest resource. We have a long tradition of bringing Peer and Paraprofessional Math Tutors to the Spring Conference as a part of their professional development and mentorship. This year, we are excited that our students will have the opportunity to see behind the scenes how a conference is run. Please consider bringing your institution's future

mathematicians and math educators too.

We hope that you are willing to share your ideas and experiences at the Spring Conference! Please consider giving a presentation or facilitating a forum this year. We welcome both veteran and new speakers, and in keeping with our theme, student presenters. Your presentations foster professional growth and dialogue among our members. Even if you choose not to present, we hope you will still attend. You can establish helpful relations with new colleagues and renew connections with old friends.

Your conference co-chairs,

Kerryn Snyder and Alex Cotter



Call for Presenters

The call for presenters closes MARCH 20, 2020.

This year, as always, we are eager to see engaging proposals. We are looking for data-rich proposals, math for fun, using math in other discipline, proposals that focus on pedagogy, online courses, gateway programs, flipped/emporium classrooms, and co requisite courses. Whether you teach developmental math, calculus, or statistics, or you're engaged in instructor preparation, please, share your ideas. Don't let this list stop you! Please submit a presentation proposal by filing out the proposal form by March 20.

Even if you choose not to present, we hope you will attend. You can meet new colleagues and renew connection with old friends.

We hope to see you in April.

Your conference chairs,
Alex Cotter & Kerry Snyder

Submit your proposal online at <http://nematyc.info/PROPOSAL/>

Conference Coordinates

Get **DIRECTIONS** for Massasoit's Brockton campus at
<https://www.massasoit.edu/about-massasoit/our-campuses/brockton/>

Conference Registration

Saturday April 4, 8 am – noon
Student Center Building, Student Lounge (see map)

Parking – See map at the right

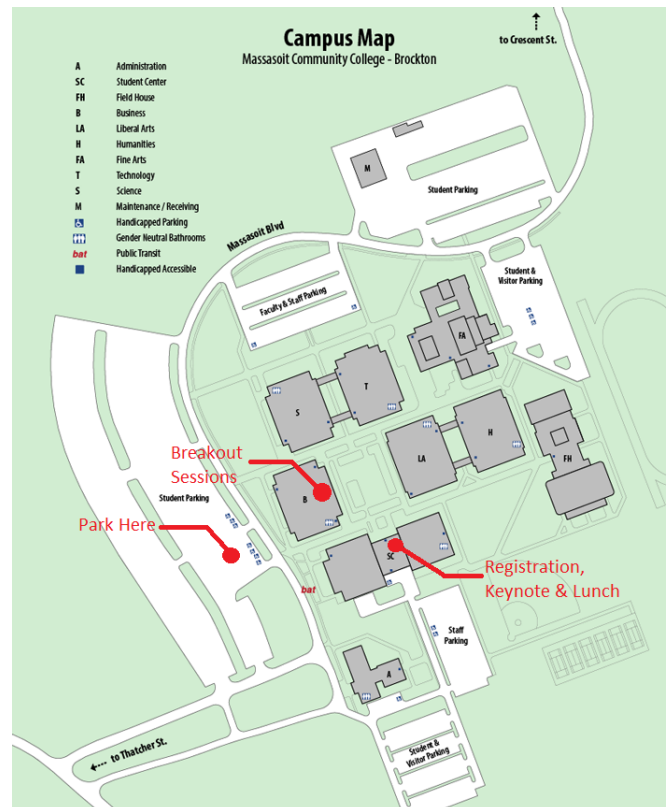
Sessions will take place in the Business Building

Opening Session 9:00 am

Keynote Speaker

**Nathaniel Whitaker, Department Chair,
University of Massachusetts – Amherst.**

There will be morning and afternoon presentations. Lunch will be followed by a presentation by the keynote speaker. Watch the web site <http://www.nematyc.org> for more details as they develop.



Hotels near Massasoit Community College's Brockton Campus

[Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Brockton](#) (4.0 miles from MCC)

Address: 50 Christy's Dr, Brockton, MA 02301 **Phone:** (508) 559-0099

Ratings: Expedia: 4.1/5 Google: 3.8

[Holiday Inn Express Brockton](#) (4.4 miles from MCC)

Address: 405 Westgate Dr, Brockton, MA 02301 **Phone:** (508) 588-6300

Ratings: Expedia: 4.1/5 Google: 3.9

[Residence Inn by Marriott, Brockton](#) (4.7 miles from MCC)

Address: 124 Liberty Street, Brockton, MA 02301 **Phone:** (508) 583-3600

Ratings: Expedia: 4.3/5 Google: 4.2

[Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton, Stoughton](#) (8.3 miles from MCC)

Address: 449 Page Street, Stoughton, MA 02072 **Phone:** (781) 297-2900

Ratings: Expedia: 4.5/5 Google: 4.4

[Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Randolph](#) (9.3 miles from MCC)

Address: 60 Mazzeo Drive, Randolph, MA 02368 **Phone:** (781) 805 - 8850

Ratings: Expedia: 4.3/5 Google: 4.3

[Residence Inn by Marriott, Bridgewater](#) (12 miles from MCC)

Address: 2020 Pleasant Street, Bridgewater, MA 02324 **Phone:** (508) 697 - 1412

Ratings: Expedia: 4.7/5 Google: 4.6

Conferences and professional opportunities are the product of a lot of work by our colleagues and friends of NEMATYC. The NEMATYC Executive Board met in early January for NEMATYC business and conference planning.



Shown from left in clockwise order are Philomena D'Alessandro, At-large Member, Quinsigamond CC, Aisha Arroyo, Treasurer, Middlesex CC, NEMATYC president Alex Cotter, Massasoit CC, Tonka Zelenkova, At-large Member, Middlesex CC, Dave Henry, Past President, Bristol CC, Aliza Miller, At-large Member, Middlesex CC, Richard Neville, At-large Member, Dean College, and seated is Vice president, Billy Jackson, North Shore CC with his daughter Quin.

Conference Registration Form

New England Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges

46th Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 4, 2020

Massasoit Community College

Alex Cotter & Kerryn Snyder, Co-chairs

Early Registration Discount Date: Monday March 23, 2020

Register Online at <http://nematyc.info/REGISTER>

Much Easier for Everybody

Register Online at
<http://nematyc.info/REGISTER>

NAME _____

Preferred Mailing Address _____

This address is
Home _____ College _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Institution/Affiliation _____

Activities you plan to attend	Registration Type (note 2)	Early Fee (Late Fee)
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Morning Sessions	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time Educator or Professional	\$70 (\$80 after 3/26)
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Lunch (note 1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Adjunct Faculty	\$40 (\$50 after 3/26)
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Afternoon Sessions	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$40 (\$50 after 3/26)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Presenter	Fee waived (note 3)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Current ACCESS Fellow	Fee waived (note 2)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired, Guest	\$40 (\$50 after 3/26)

(1) *Saturday lunch cannot be guaranteed for registrants after March 26*

(2) *Includes 1-year NEMATYC membership*

(3) *First presenter only in multiple presenter sessions*

Would you be willing to be a presider? Yes No

PAYMENT

Make checks payable to NEMATYC and mail registrations to:

NEMATYC
Attn: Alex Cotter
Mathematics Department
Massasoit Community College
One Massasoit Blvd
Brockton, MA 02302

Questions? Email Alex Cotter
At
ACotter1@massasoit.mass.edu

Conference Refund Policy: A refund of 100% of your advance registration fees less the dues amount will be given upon receipt of a written request postmarked no later than two weeks prior to the conference. A 50% refund less the dues amount will be given if written request is postmarked within the two weeks prior to the conference. No refunds for non-attendance will be given for requests postmarked after the date of the conference. All requests should be sent to the NEMATYC Conference Chairperson. Refunds will be processed approximately four to six weeks after the conference.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The NEMATYC Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following vacancies and present the following slate of officers for the elections to be held at the business meeting, Saturday, April 4, 2020, at the annual conference.

1. PRESIDENT (Two-Year Term)

BILLY JACKSON

Billy Jackson has been teaching at North Shore Community College for eight years. He earned Bachelor and Master degrees in Mathematics from Westfield State University and Salem State University, respectively. A recent interest of his is learning R programming and figuring out how to easily bring it into his statistics classrooms. Currently, Billy is serving his second term as NEMATYC Vice President.

2. VICE PRESIDENT (One-Year Term)

PHILOMENA D’ALESSANDRO

Philomena D’Alessandro is a Professor of Mathematics at Quinsigamond Community College and an At-Large Member of the NEMATYC Executive Board. She has been teaching full-time at QCC since 2008, and also serves as the Student Math League Moderator and Emporium Lead Coach. She earned a B.S. in Mathematics from Siena College and M.A. in Mathematics from the University at Albany.

3. SECRETARY (Two-Year Term)

No Nominees to Date

4. MEMBER-AT-LARGE (Two-Year Term, two to be elected)

ALIZA MILLER

Aliza Miller is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Middlesex Community College. She began her career in Massachusetts at Mt. Wachusett CC after teaching in Vermont for three years. Aliza was an AMATYC Project ACCESS Fellow (11th cohort). She earned a bachelor’s degree in science and mathematics at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, and holds a master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Vermont.

ULISES POYSER

Ulises Poyser has been teaching math at QCC since 2002 (full-time since 2008). He has taught math at both the high school and college level for over 20 years. With a computer engineering background, Ulises is passionate about combining technology and math in the classroom. He currently serves as the QCC Non-STEM math coach.

Prior to the election, nominations will also be welcomed and accepted from the floor.

Dave Henry, Nominating Committee Chair

The NEMATYC STUDENT MATH LEAGUE RECOGNITION AWARD PROGRAM

by Kerryn Snyder, NEMATYC Student Mathematics League Coordinator

Award Program

The purpose of the NEMATYC Student Mathematics League Recognition Awards Program is to foster extracurricular mathematics learning opportunities for students through participation in the AMATYC Student Mathematics League (SML). The top-placing student in the AMATYC SML Competition at each school in NEMATYC’s region receives a \$100 award. The only criteria is the student must participate in both the Fall and Spring competitions. The top school receives the Lois A. Martin NEMATYC Student Mathematics League Award.

Highlights and History

Ten NEMATYC schools registered for round one in the Fall. Middlesex Community College had an excellent showing in round one and currently has the third highest score of all schools in the AMATYC Northeast Region with 105.5 points, and is first in the NEMATYC service area. Quincy College is currently ranked second in the NEMATYC service area.

NEMATYC schools had 11 of the top 20 individuals in the AMATYC Northeast region this fall. The highest individual score in NEMATYC’s region is Gowtham Manickam of Middlesex, with a very impressive 25.5, which is third in the Northeast. Several other regional students were close behind.

Join the Fun

The second test of the 2019-2020 competition will be given from Friday, February 21 through Saturday, March 14. If your college does not have a team, please consider joining the spirited rivalry among NEMATYC schools. Your involvement can be as simple as just administering the tests. Or, you might include practice sessions and even advise a campus mathematics club. Your students will thank you for giving them the opportunity to compete. It’s still not too late to join the fun! Visit www.amatyc.org, or contact Kerryn for more information at KSnyder@massasoit.mass.edu.

NEMATYC 2019-2020 Student Math League Standings After First Round

NEMATYC REGION STUDENTS IN TOP 20 OF AMATYC NORTHEAST REGION

NEMATYC REGION TEAMS IN TOP 20 OF AMATYC NORTHEAST REGION

Rank	Student	College	Round 1 Score	Rank	Team	Round 1 Score
3	Gowtham Manickam	Middlesex CC	25.5	1	Middlesex CC	105.5
4 *	Daniel Cronin	Middlesex CC	24.0	4	Quincy College	71.5
4 *	Mathew Weisenbeck	Quincy College	24.0	5	Springfield Technical CC	55.0
8	Matthew Coleman	Middlesex CC	20.5	6	NHTI - Concord's CC	51.5
9	Quynh Nguyen	Quincy College	20.0	7	Holyoke CC	50.0
11	Thang Do	Middlesex CC	18.0	10	Quinsigamond CC	35.0
12	Kimhong Huon	Middlesex CC	17.5	11	Massasoit CC	30.0
14	Diane Collins	Holyoke CC	16.5	14	Cape Cod CC	14.5
15 *	Richard Jagodowski	Springfield Technical CC	16.0	15	North Shore CC	14.0
15 *	Johnathan Abbott	NHTI - Concord's CC	16.0	16	Bristol CC	12.0
18	Michael Reilly	Massasoit CC	14.5			

* tie

11th Annual NEMATYC Fall Dinner Meeting

The 11th NEMATYC Fall Dinner Meeting was held at the Copper House Tavern, Waltham.

The featured speaker was **Dr. Mark Glickman, Harvard University**.

Dr. Glickman explored how statistics can be used to classify musical style, distinguish features particular to specific songwriters, and ultimately address how to predict who wrote a song of disputed authorship. The presentation was accompanied by musical demonstrations.

Go to <http://history.nematyc.info/FallDinnerMeeting2019/> if you would like to hear an interesting rendition of the Beatles' Norwegian Wood.



NEMATYC at AMATYC 2019 – Milwaukee

Some of the NEMATYC members who attended AMATYC 2019



KUDOS

NEMATYC Member Scores AGAIN at AMATYC-Milwaukee

The Faculty Math League competition at the AMATYC 2019 conference was again sponsored by Mu Alpha Theta.

The winner was Aisha Arroyo of Middlesex CC.

- In 2013 Aisha (then at Massasoit CC) tied for second place with **Aaron Levin** of **Holyoke CC**.
- In 2014 there was a tie for first place between **Aisha** and **Curtis Mitchell**, **Kirkwood CC** (Curtis once taught at Greenfield CC).
- In 2017 Aisha placed second.
- In 2018 Aisha placed first.
- In 2019 Aisha placed first!

Pictured:

Aisha (right), our AMATYC Northeast Vice President, **Sophia Georgiakaki**, Tompkins Cortland CC, who placed sixth, and the second place contestant **Sean Saunders** from Sheridan College in Ontario.



Congratulations to Rebecca Rosenblum, Richard Megarry, and Colin Devine of Holyoke CC, who placed third in AMATYC's 2nd Annual Student Research League competition.

YOU are the M in STEM

You can register for the spring conference at
<http://nematyc.info/REGISTER>

AMATYC Presidential Student Scholarship

Each AMATYC affiliate may submit one nomination for a \$1,000 scholarship, which is awarded by a drawing (44 affiliates, but not everyone nominates) at the AMATYC conference. Criteria: 1. Nominating institution must have one active member of AMATYC; 2. Minimum student GPA 3.0; 3. Nominated student must be majoring in math (at next school) and enrolled full-time at the nominating institution during the Spring semester.

Example: Joe Smith is at Bristol CC this spring and will be transferring to Bridgewater State to study Mathematics and has a GPA of 3.15.

For more information or questions, contact David Henry (david.henry@bristolcc.edu).

NEMATYC EXECUTIVE BOARD – 2018-2020

President	18-20	Alex Cotter	Massasoit CC	ACotter1@massasoit.mass.edu
Vice President	19-20	Billy Jackson	North Shore CC	wjackson@northshore.edu
Past President–acting	18-20	Dave Henry	Bristol CC	David.Henry@bristolcc.edu
Secretary	18-20	Autumn Alden	Bristol CC	Autumn.Alden@bristolcc.edu
Treasurer	19-22	Aisha Arroyo	Middlesex CC	ArroyoA@middlesex.mass.edu
At-Large Member	19-21	Tonka Zelenkova	Middlesex CC	zelenkovat@middlesex.mass.edu
At-Large Member	19-21	Richard Neville	Dean College	rneville@dean.edu
At-Large Member	18-20	Philomena D’Alessandro	Quinsigamond CC	pdalessandro@qcc.mass.edu
At-Large Member	18-20	Aliza Miller	Middlesex CC	MillerAK@middlesex.mass.edu

Appointed NEMATYC Positions

Conference Cochairs	19-20	Kerryn Snyder	Alex Cotter	Massasoit CC
Past Conference Chair	19-20	Elena Heineke	Quincy College	
Membership Chair	18-20	Maria Arambel	Middlesex CC	ArambelM@middlesex.mass.edu
Student Math League Crdintr	18-20	Kerryn Snyder	Massasoit CC	KSnyder@massasoit.mass.edu
Webmaster	18-20	Mary E. Sullivan	Cape Cod CC	MSulli01@capecod.edu
Newsletter Editor	18-20	Philip Mahler	retired	mahlermath@comcast.net

AMATYC Regional Vice President: Sophia Georgiakaki, Tompkins Cortland CC, Sophia.georgiakaki@amatyc.org



The NEMATYC Newsletter is issued twice a year, in the Fall and in the Spring. Suggestions and submissions may be directed to the president or the editor.

NEMATYC NEWSLETTER
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 Carlisle, MA 01741