



NEMATYC NEWS



Newsletter of the New England Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges

Vol. 11, No. 1

October, 2002

President's Column

Maureen Woolhouse

I am happy to announce that this year, 2002, is the 30th anniversary of NEMATYC. Originally called MMATYC (Massachusetts Mathematical Association of Two-year Colleges), the organization was a splinter of the local chapter Mathematical Association of America. To borrow from NEMATYC historian, Joe Menard, "the new organization was formed to foster communication between people teaching at two-year colleges. With the difficulties that open enrollment have brought, there is a need for a new kind of meeting where the faculty of the classroom can share frustrations and inspirations. This society (NEMATYC) exists to provide such meetings in small workshop settings where new ideas can be germinated and developed".

NEMATYC has gone a long way toward filling this gap in communication. Thirty years of conferences have fostered much in the way of ideas and cross-pollination among institutions. It never ceases to amaze me to see the diversity of organization and method of delivery that exists even within the boundaries of a single state. Even within Massachusetts community colleges there are a wealth of differences, which always provides interesting exploration. In other words, there is always an opportunity for dialogue at NEMATYC's annual meetings.

This year, the annual meeting will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, where Johnson & Wales University will serve as the host site. As usual, this newsletter contains a call for presenters for the annual meeting. Given the economic climate, however, this year it is even more important than ever to respond to the call.

Continued on Page 5

Conference Chair's Column

Tom Pandolfini

I am very proud to be hosting NEMATYC's return to Rhode Island and Johnson & Wales University. *NEMATYC 2003: "Cookin' Up a Conference"* will be held at the University's Culinary campus in Providence on March 28-29. I invite you to experience the hospitality and foodservice for which Rhode Island and Johnson & Wales are known, and assure you that planning is underway to take full advantage of both.

But let's not forget the math and teaching. The biggest challenge I'm facing is to produce a program that continues NEMATYC's tradition of quality and something for everyone. To that end, I am encouraging you to consider giving a presentation (see the Call for Presenters in this newsletter). If there's a particular technique or classroom management procedure that's been successful for you; if you have an effective way to teach a traditional topic; if you've come across something that you think would prove valuable to math educators...rest assured that there's an audience for it, whether or not it's novel or something you've pioneered. The Call for Presenters features the range of possible themes that NEMATYC has traditionally suggested as well as a new one, "Math and Career Education", in which Johnson & Wales and some of your institutions specialize. We want to hear about what you are doing!

Despite the infinite number of details (aleph-null?) that have to be worked out, I am anticipating a successful conference. Hope to see you all at Johnson & Wales!

Tom Pandolfini Johnson & Wales University

Cookin' Up a Conference

Johnson & Wales University March 28 – 29, 2003

Treasurer's Report

Our May, 2002 balance was \$8,388.27. Since that time, we have had income from interest, membership, the 2002 Conference and AMATYC support for the newsletter. Our expenses have been for a spring Board Meeting lunch and deposit on a restaurant for the 2003 meeting. Our current balance is \$10,282.93. A detailed report has been submitted to the Board and is available for all to see at the business meeting in March.

Thanks to the work Past President Roberta Kieronski, we are now both a non-profit and a tax exempt organization on the federal level. This permits the organization to accept tax deductible donations. The flip side of the benefit is the need for us to maintain exacting records of incomes and expenses meeting the standards of the IRS. Past record keeping has been good. The new regulations are more a matter of form than function. Our next large financial decision is to determine if the work involved in obtaining similar status for state purposes is worth the potential gain. NEMATYC is a New England organization meaning investigating the non-profit and tax exempt status in six states. The Board is currently reviewing this matter.

Lois Martin, Treasurer

Board Meetings

The Executive Board met on June 14th and on October 17th. Review of the past and next conferences consumes most of the discussion time. The two-day conference format has had wide appeal as has the introduction of commercial presenters. Alternative methods of distribution of the Newsletter have been discussed. Budget cuts have forced North Shore CC to withdraw their generous support of free mailings. Membership continues to be a difficult problem. Traditionally, only those who attended the last conference or have paid the nominal \$5 fee are members. The board is looking into ways of broadening the membership, particularly to those who are regular members but miss a conference because of life's unavoidable scheduling conflicts. Started under past President Roberta Kieronski and continued under the direction of current president Maureen Woolhouse, is the Board Policy Manual. This organizes the organization so every wheel gets to be invented once and subsequently improved upon rather than being reinvented. It includes the duties of officers and guidelines to help board members meet their responsibilities. Soon we will have a web site "NEMATYC.org."

Rick Butterworth, Secretary

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Never give students a complex problem whose answer is 1. They will cancel everything in sight (incorrectly), give the answer "one" and then complain when chided with "But I got the right answer!"

Call for Presenters
NEMATYC 2003: *Cookin' Up a Conference*
Johnson & Wales University – Culinary Campus – Providence, RI
March 28-29

Suggested themes: Pedagogy – Technology Use – Assessment – Classroom Mgmt.
Math and Career Education – or any other you feel is relevant!

Presenter(s) _____

**** please note: the registration fee for ONE presenter per presentation will be waived ****

Contact information:

College or affiliation _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ (If home address and telephone number are preferred, please list those as well.)

Time preference: Please indicate a first and second choice.

Friday afternoon Saturday Morning Saturday Afternoon No Preference

Length of presentation: 45 Minutes 90 Minutes

Presentation Title: _____

Abstract: _____

Equipment/technology needs: _____

Workshops, short seminars, discussion panels and poster sessions are encouraged. If you need additional information or have any questions, please call Tom Pandolfini, 401-598-4780, or email tpandolfini@jwu.edu

Proposal Deadline Date: *December 7, 2002*

Mail to: Tom Pandolfini, NEMATYC 2003 Chairperson, White Center
Johnson & Wales University – 8 Abbott Park Place – Providence, RI 02903
Or Fax: 401-598-1821

Send proposals by December 7, 2002

NEMATYC is looking for presenters who are willing to share their classroom experiences. Step out of the shadows and into the limelight for 45 or 90 minutes of self-proclaimed fame. Other professionals are eagerly awaiting to hear about your opinions, your techniques, your strategies and your approaches to mathematics education. What have you tried that has brought you success?

Fill out the back side and send a short (25-50 word) abstract. Feel free to attach any additional supporting information. Indicate your day preference (Friday afternoon, Saturday or no preference), length of session (45 or 90 minutes) and equipment needs. Include your phone number, college address and e-mail address. One presenter for each session will be given a free registration. If you have any questions, please contact

Tom Pandolfini, 401-598-4780 email tpandolfini@jwu.edu Fax: 401-598-1821

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CALL FOR PRESENTERS

NEMATYC 2003

Cookin' Up a Conference

Johnson & Wales University – Culinary Campus – Providence, RI

March 28-29

-----Use the form on the back, fold and mail. -----

37¢ stamp

Tom Pandolfini,
NEMATYC 2003 Chairperson
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Johnson & Wales University
8 Abbott Park Place
Providence, RI 02903

From AMATYC's Northeast Regional Vice President's office

Our Phoenix conference will be November 14-17, 2002. May things are happening at AMATYC. Some are: 1: Two people are wanted to manage the AMATYC review. Contact Phil Mahier by November 4, 2002, at mahlerp@middlesex.cc.ma.us 2: Conference Exhibits/Commercial (?) Presentations Chair is needed. If interested, contact Rob Farinelli, Mid Atlantic Vice President at rfarinelli@ccas.edu; deadline is November 4, 2002. 3: Teaching excellence award nominations are due by December 9, 2002. Please consider nominating yourself or one of your colleagues. Contact Judy Ackerman at jackerma@mc.cc.md.us 4: Crossroads Revisited Project is moving right along. There are sessions in Phoenix for you to provide input. This is our premier document, consider a donation to defray the expenses Contact me at jkeatingmassasoit.mass.edu. 5: Call for 2003/2005 Executive board nominations are still being solicited. Positions to be elected are president-elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Presidents for each of the 8 regions. 6: CBMS'S survey results on the demographics of collegiate mathematics is now available on line at www.ams.org/cbms/ 7: On line proposals for Salt Lake City AMATYC 2003 are now being solicited. The forms are available at www.AMATYC.org from November 1, 2002 to February 5, 2003.

Enjoy your semester, enjoy your teaching, **Jack Keating, Massasoit CC**

President's Column continued from page 1

Many NEMATYC members who ordinarily faithfully attend national AMATYC meetings will find that out of state travel has been very restricted by their colleges. Therefore, professional development may be understandably limited to more local venues. Under these circumstances, it becomes more important that we take the opportunity to share even modest classroom experiences and successes with our colleagues in New England. I hope you will think hard about ways in which you can respond to this call. You should take the time to encourage others at your college who are doing something interesting in their classes to share their experiences with us. We can only have a good conference if members are willing to take the risks involved in making a presentation.

Past President Roberta Kieronski has been working to gain tax-exempt status for NEMATYC over the past year. She has worked doggedly to negotiate numerous forms and annoying bureaucrats and we are pleased to announce her ultimate success. Outside of the obvious benefits that this status provides NEMATYC, it will allow us to establish our own scholarship, which could be funded at least partially through member bequests. So, if you are in the process of drawing up a will or rewriting one, hold off until our scholarship fund is

established. We're sure that you'll want to get in on the "ground" floor on this opportunity.

Finally, I'd like to ask each of you to consider self-nominating for a seat on the NEMATYC board of directors. This spring, two positions will become open: Vice President and one At-Large-Member to the Executive Board. Starting off service on the Board as a Member-at-Large is a good way to begin your involvement. In addition to donating your time to a worthwhile organization, NEMATYC Board service can assist individuals in many ways: as professional service for your dean, as a handsome addition to your resume, or to add luster to your obituary. Our evolving Policy Manual makes jobs easier and In the course of doing Board business we also have fun. Roberta Kieronski chairs the nominating Committee and is very knowledgeable about Board positions. Please contact her at robertak@cisunix.unh.edu to investigate more about how you might serve in a board position.

As this newsletter arrives, I'm sure you've become immersed in your teaching and college service. On behalf of NEMATYC's Board, I wish you a fruitful and enjoyable semester. I look forward to serving you and NEMATYC as President this year.

Sincerely,
Maureen Woolhouse

Check us out at: <http://bristol.mass.edu/nematyc/>

Without the "(x)" sin(x) is just misbehaving!

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Call for Presenters inside

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