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# PCSM NEWSLETTER

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Leaders in Mathematics Education

Fall 2000

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## PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SUPERVISORS OF MATHEMATICS

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*From the President*

- **Bernie Schroeder**

Greetings from your president - still a man of few words - so here are my few words.

Thursday - October 12, 2000, is a date to remember. PCSM and NCSM are co-sponsoring a leadership workshop on issues related to bringing the NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics to life, as part of the NCTM Eastern Regional Mathematics Conference at the Pennsylvania Conference Center in Philadelphia. This two-part workshop will run from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM and from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM, and will be led by Grace Kelemanik from City on a Hill High School in Boston, Massachusetts. Please make every possible effort to attend. (For more details see page 8.)

**PLAN TO ATTEND  
THE NCTM EASTERN REGIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER  
PHILADELPHIA, PA  
12-14 OCTOBER 2000  
visit NCTM Web site <[www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org)> for  
complete program listing and  
registration information**

Breaking news about the Spring, 2001, PCSM Conference in Pittsburgh: We hopefully have lined up Joan Ferrini-Mundy (chair of the writing group for the Standards 2000 Project) as the keynote speaker. Again, please make every possible effort to attend.

News from the two Governor's Math Institutes at the Penn Stater (just outside State College) July 17-21 and August 14-18: The word on the street is that the participants found most of the presentations to be quite inspiring and useful. (See p. 4 for one teacher's glowing assessment of the Institute.) All elementary seats (40) at both sessions were filled, but there were some vacancies in the middle school and high school sections (30 seats each) at both sessions. One cannot help wondering why the vacancies.

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- NCTM Representative Report
- PCSM Award Nominations
- Meet Janie Zimmer, ENC Maths. Associate
- A Letter to the Editor - Governor's Institute
- Act 48 News
- Upcoming Events
- ...and more

**NCTM REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

NCTM's Web site, <www.nctm.org>, has a new look. The top right of the screen has four buttons.

The Teachers Corner features professional development opportunities. "Student Math Notes" are now available online. (May 2000 - Census 2000 and Sampling; September 2000 - Special Delivery)

The Family Corner has quick links to *Figure This!, Do Math, the Math Forum, and Illuminations.*"

The Leader Corner lists the following NCTM Position Papers for 2000:

- ◆ Evaluation of Teaching Performance and Effectiveness
- ◆ Mathematics Leaders in Elementary, Middle, and High Schools
- ◆ Metrication (National Metric Week is October 8-14)
- ◆ Teacher Time

The Researchers Corner contains articles from the Journal for Research in Mathematics Education.

Volunteers are needed for the Orlando Conference. If you plan to attend (April 4-7, 2001), why not participate by giving a few hours to help the organizers. Forms are available at the NCTM Web site.

Plan to attend the NCTM Regional in Philadelphia, October 12-14, 2000. The theme - "Teaching and Learning: An Ever-Changing Continuum" - has something for everyone.

Carolyn Marchand  
(814) 362-7324  
marchand@penn.com

(Continued from page 1)

(That may be an issue for PCSM members to discuss at the next meeting.) Graduate credit, valuable information, graphing calculators, superb camaraderie, etc. --- all FREE to the participant --- and all at the fabulous Penn State Hotel and Conference Center! How can any teacher turn that down? STRONGLY urge teachers to attend next summer.

Have an excellent school year, and we'll see you all in Philly in October and Pittsburgh in March.

Bernie Schroeder  
(717) 872-3009  
bschroed@marauder.millersv.edu

*From the Editor*  
**- Ariene Dowshen**

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope that all of you had a relaxing, enjoyable and productive summer. With the beginning of a new school year we all face new challenges and opportunities. The NCTM Eastern Regional Conference in Philadelphia is an opportunity that you should not miss. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Please share the newsletter with your colleagues and encourage other mathematics leaders in your schools or communities to join PCSM. A membership application is included in the newsletter; please duplicate as needed.

Ariene L. Dowshen  
Widener University  
One University Place  
Chester, PA 19013  
(610) 499-1245  
dowshen@maths.widener.edu

## AWARDS, AWARDS, AWARDS

Nominations are being taken for the prestigious awards presented annually to outstanding Mathematics Educators. The awards will be presented at the annual meeting in Pittsburgh. Awards will be presented for Outstanding Service to PCSM, Outstanding Contribution to Mathematics Education, and an outstanding educator will be elected to the Supervisors Hall of Fame.

If you would like to nominate someone for any of these awards, please submit a letter stating the person's qualifications by February 1, 2001 to:

Mary Foley  
228 Sanderson Avenue  
Olyphant, PA 18447

or [foleymmath@earthlink.net](mailto:foleymmath@earthlink.net)

## Mathweb2000 Is Coming to You.

The first-ever 100% Web-based mathematics conference hits your browser October 30-November 17, 2000. The theme for Mathweb 2000 is "Assessment: Benchmarks for Success." Engage in open dialogue with educators representing elementary, middle, and secondary levels. All you need is an Internet connection to tap into a world of practical experience on state, district, and classroom assessment. (See page 7 for some interesting readings on assessment.) Sponsors include NCTM, PBS, Hewlett-Packard, Modeling Middle School Mathematics (MMM), and the Show-Me Center. Visit <http://www.groupjazz.com/mathweb2000> for details and register today!

Sponsor and exhibitor opportunities are also available. Visit the Web site for details or contact [math@groupjazz.com](mailto:math@groupjazz.com).

## Meet Janie L. Zimmer

Janie L. Zimmer is the new Mathematics Associate for Research for Better Schools (RBS) and its Mid-Atlantic Eisenhower Consortium for Mathematics and Science Education. She will direct the activities of the Consortium's Pennsylvania State Team and provide regional leadership for the improvement of mathematics and science curricula. Ms. Zimmer's experience includes over 30 years in education, 20 years in local and national leadership roles, and the most recent 10 years as Coordinator of Mathematics (K-12) for Maryland's Howard County Public School System. She has worked on programs with various school systems, associations, universities, and for the past decade with the National Security Agency. She has served as president of the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics and as the Eastern Representative for the Regional Services Committee for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Ms. Zimmer is triple-certified in Maryland as a superintendent, principal/supervisor, and advanced teacher of mathematics, and she holds a master's degree in mathematics education from Loyola College in Maryland. Janie has worked with PCSM and PCTM in her role on NCTM's Regional Services Committee, and she looks forward to continuing to work with us in the years to come. She can be reached at [<zimmer@rbs.org>](mailto:zimmer@rbs.org).

## Eisenhower Consortium Provides Newsletters for Educators

The Mid-Atlantic Eisenhower Consortium for Mathematics and Science Education introduces the free email publication **Riptides**. Each month the publication features information about new products, Web sites, workshops, and other items of interest to mathematics and science educators.

Connect quickly to regional and national resources using Riptides' one-paragraph summaries and Web site links. This "hands-on-mouse" news digest is for anyone concerned with today's mathematics and science education issues, including standards, systemic reform, and professional development.

To preview this publication, go to [<www2.rbs.org/ec.nsf/pages/Riptides>](http://www2.rbs.org/ec.nsf/pages/Riptides). To subscribe, send an e-mail to [listserv@lists.rbs.org](mailto:listserv@lists.rbs.org) with the following line in the body of the message: `subscribe riptides (firstname lastname)`. For more information visit the consortium's homepage at [<www.rbs.org>](http://www.rbs.org) or call 215-574-9300.

*Letter to the Editor*

In July, I attended the Governor's Institute for Mathematics and had a great experience. I was asked to write about my experiences.

I have always envied the youngsters who have been given the opportunity to go to a "math camp." To me, spending the day learning new insights into math problems, struggling with solutions to problems, laughing with partners over difficulty with a trick problem ("Don't tell us the answer!"), and discovering a pattern or scheme to a problem is FUN! The Governor's Institute for Mathematics provided all of that and MORE! For me, a week at the Penn Stater, where all expenses were paid (nice room, free meals and snacks, and exciting new faces and friends) was like a bonus vacation.

Truthfully, I was prepared for the worst experience. I dragged myself into it with the unhappy feeling of resignation: "I've got to do this. It will serve toward my professional hours. Best get it done and over." Surprisingly, I found my week there to be memorable. Arriving Monday, I discovered immediately that we, all of the teachers, were being treated with respect and hospitality. At registration we were given a big, blue, canvas book bag with "MATHEMATICS" written on it. I am very proud of this bag and consider it a treasure. I felt we were being honored, rather than tortured. The Penn Stater is a very nice hotel and it was to be our residence for the week with all of the benefits: pool, fitness room, dining room (the food was excellent), and the ambiance of the university nearby. The lectures, workshops, and homework were relevant, interesting, and NOT boring. I dug in with enthusiasm because of the high quality of standards set for us to meet as our challenge. All of our presenters concentrated on the Pennsylvania Academic Math Standards and I found my head full of

ideas to share with my students back in the classroom. We all worked hard and I thoroughly enjoyed the effort. It was as if we had been transported back in time and given the opportunity to be kids again, exploring the wonderful world of math without the indignity of being ranked. We could explore and contemplate the math menu at our own personal levels.

There were so many interesting people and topics that it is difficult to address them all. Some of them were: Marcia Seeley, a report on TIMSS with a video of a typical math class in Japan; Gary Plummer, an afternoon with the metric olympics; Fred Stewart, a new take on angles and angle measurement; Bill Hadley, the Cognitive Tutor; Jim Rubillo, a math challenge; and Glenda Lappen, past President of NCTM.

We were given time to explore math Web sites and locations on the Internet. Our homework was to devise two lessons to be included in the Internet text which will match the Numbers or Algebra Pennsylvania Standards. Unexpectedly, we were offered two credits from California State for completing the requirements outlined by the institute. A big plus!

Thinking back on the event, it gave me the opportunity to be among the people who want to improve mathematics education for students by encouraging teachers to learn and grow professionally. Dr. Frank Marburger, PDE, provided five days of challenges which will be worthwhile for me in my personal efforts in the classroom. I cannot wait for school to start and implement some of what I have learned. I'm not kidding!

Kathryn Bard, Middle School Math Teacher  
Camp Hill Middle School  
Camp Hill, PA  
August 19, 2000

**ACT 48 NEWS**

Teachers planning to earn ACT 48 "hours" by attending conferences and workshops this year need to check (immediately) to be sure that their school district (IU or diocese) has listed the host organization in their Professional Education Plan. NCTM, PCTM, PCSM, MCWP, and other organizations which provide professional development activities must be listed in the above mentioned plan when it is submitted (prior to October 1, 2000). Some districts have included a broad statement that professional agencies which address the goals and identified needs of their plan will be approved, and teachers will be awarded credit for participation.

Those participating in professional development activities, for the next three years, receive hours toward Act 48 requirements only if the host organization or event is recognized in the Plan (by October 1<sup>st</sup>). The "hours" are reported to the PDE by the school entity.



NCTM's  
79th Annual Meeting

Orlando, Florida  
5-7 April 2001

For more information contact:  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
1906 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 20191-1593  
fax: (703) 476-2970  
tel: (703) 620-9840  
annlmtg@nctm.org  
[www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org)

**UPCOMING EVENTS****NCTM Eastern Regional Conference**

October 12-14, 2000, Philadelphia, PA

**School Science and Mathematics Association (SSMA)  
"Celebrating Diversity" Conference**

October 20-21, 2000, Albuquerque, NM

For more information visit the Web site <[www.ssma.org](http://www.ssma.org)>

**Second National FANS Conference, Focusing on  
Families and Standards**

November 9-10, 2000, New Brunswick, NJ

The FANS Project, Families Achieving the New  
Standards in Mathematics, Science and Technology

<<http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/fans/>>

**Greenwich Japanese School, Lesson Study Open  
House**

November 14, 2000; information is available at

<[www.tc.edu/centers/lessonstudy/Events\\_Nov14.htm](http://www.tc.edu/centers/lessonstudy/Events_Nov14.htm)>

Registration fee of \$60, with a registration deadline of  
October 7, 2000

**The University of Chicago School Mathematics  
Project (UCSMP)**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Inservices

November 11-12, 2000

Ida Noyes Hall, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Contact UCSMP at [ucsmp@uchicago.edu](mailto:ucsmp@uchicago.edu) or call  
(773) 702-1130

**The Thirteenth International Conference on  
Technology in Collegiate Mathematics (ICTCM)**

November 16-19, 2000, Atlanta, GA

Contact Christine Terrano at 1-800-472-6288 or  
[christine.terrano@pearsoned.com](mailto:christine.terrano@pearsoned.com)

**International Conference on "Mathematics for  
Living"**

November 18-23, 2000, Amman, Jordan

Contact Dr. Rogerson at [arogerso@mira.net](mailto:arogerso@mira.net)

**Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators  
(AMTE) 2001 Conference**

January 18-20, 2001, Costa Mesa, CA

Visit the AMTE Web site:

<[www.ceemast.csupomona.edu/amte/](http://www.ceemast.csupomona.edu/amte/)>

**Second Conference of the European Society for  
Research in Mathematics Education (CERME 2)**

February 24-27, 2001, Mariánské Lázně, Czech Republic

<<http://www.erne.uni-osnabrueck.de/cerme2.html>>

Link to Learn Mailing List

As a subscriber to the Link-to-Learn listserv you will receive information about grants, professional development opportunities, and available technology services. Visit the Web site to subscribe: <<http://www.l2l.org/cgi-bin/l2lsubscribe.asp>>

Here are some highlights from the listserv:

DISTANCE LEARNING EXCHANGE

<<http://dle.state.pa.us>>  
This is a free Web-based service that serves as a directory of distance learning activities ranging from courses for students to professional development for teachers.

E-TECHPLANNER

<<http://www.etechplanner.org>>  
This is a Web-based tool designed to help school districts create technology plans that support their local priorities and reform efforts.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

<[www.pde.psu.edu/connections/default.htm](http://www.pde.psu.edu/connections/default.htm)>  
This resource provided by PDE was designed to assist schools with the transition to standards-based teaching. Sample lesson plans and classroom activities are available.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

<<http://www.pde.psu.edu/familyconnections/family.html>>  
This companion site to Classroom Connections describes the PA academic standards and PSSA. A number of resources and tools are provided for families to assist them in helping their children.

Searchable Mathematics Activities and Resources for Teachers (SMART)

<<http://smart.ius.org/smart/>>  
The SMART tool offers educators the opportunity to search collections of activities and resources available on the Web.

Electronic Resources

NCTM Releases Version 1 of E-Standards

The electronic edition of *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*, the E-Standards, is now fully updated and features interactive E-Examples. The site has been reorganized, <<http://standards.nctm.org/>>

Free Activities Focusing on Sydney Olympics

Access mathematics activities tied to the Olympics, posted from a past NCTM World's Largest Math Event activity booklet. <<http://nctm.org/wime/wime2>>

Get Free Legislative E-Mail Updates from NCTM

Approximately once a week while Congress is in session, you can receive emails updating you on the status of legislative activities related to mathematics education. To sign up, send an email to [ljenet@nctm.org](mailto:ljenet@nctm.org). In the body of the email, include your email address, name, grade you teach or teaching specialty, and your state.

United States Mint 50 State Quarters Program

This site contains teacher-created lesson plans for grades K-6 that utilize the state quarters. The lessons' goals are based upon national curriculum standards for history, geography, and mathematics. <[www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov)>

Project Mathematics! Videotape and workbook

modules designed to explore basic topics in high school mathematics in ways that cannot be done at the chalkboard or in a textbook. <[www.projmath.caltech.edu/](http://www.projmath.caltech.edu/)>

Native American Geometry discusses and

demonstrates hands-on exercises linking mathematics with multicultural art. <[crystal.ncc.cc.nm.us/~hardaker](http://crystal.ncc.cc.nm.us/~hardaker)>

Math Poster in the London Underground

<[www.newton.cam.ac.uk/wmy2kposters/](http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/wmy2kposters/)>

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**The National Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE)** awards grants of up to \$1000 to individuals to engage in professional development activities. Apply now for Spring 2001 training (October 15, 2000 deadline). For more information about the grant process, go to <http://www.nfie.org/grants.htm>

**2001 GIFT Grant Program Announced**  
Applications for the Growth Initiatives for Teachers (GIFT) Program - a \$15,000 grant for secondary science and math teachers - are now available. Those interested can call 800-315-5010 or email [gift@gte.com](mailto:gift@gte.com). Applications are also available online at [http://www.gte.com/AboutGTE/community/gte\\_foundation/opportunities/gift.html](http://www.gte.com/AboutGTE/community/gte_foundation/opportunities/gift.html).

**Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)** [www.nsf.gov/PA](http://www.nsf.gov/PA)

These awards recognize talented teachers who exhibit exemplary teaching and leadership skills. Visit the PAEMST Web site to download an application.

**Mid-Atlantic Eisenhower Consortium for Mathematics and Science Education**  
<http://www.rbs.org/ec.nsf>

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Research for Better Schools (RBS) a five-year grant to continue operations of the Mid-Atlantic Eisenhower Consortium. The Consortium will continue to focus on providing intensive professional development and technical assistance to educators based on effective curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices, and guided by its mission to support improvement in teaching and student performance.

## Readings for Professional Development

So little time and so much to read. Here are some suggestions:

The Innovative Potential of the Mathematics Coordinator by Robert J. Rihs (published by the Mid-Atlantic Eisenhower Consortium) explores the potential of subject-area coordinators for stimulating, facilitating, and supporting innovation in mathematics education. This book is available from RBS Publications; visit the RBS Web site <http://www.rbs.org/eisenhower>.

Two provocative critiques of the current emphasis on standardized testing: "Why Standardized Tests Don't Measure Educational Quality" by W. James Popham (available at <http://www.ascd.org/readingroom/edlead/9903/extpopham.html>) and The Schools Our Children Deserve - Moving beyond Traditional Classrooms and Tougher Standards by Alfie Kohn (Houghton Mifflin, 1999). Mr. Kohn is an outspoken critic of standardized tests as a means of measuring educational achievement.

"Exploring Children's Thinking about Mathematicians and Their Work" by D. Rock & J. Shaw in Teaching Children Mathematics (May 2000, p. 550) includes an excellent listing of resources and Web sites related to this topic.

"Mathematics in the Middle Grades" [http://public.sdsu.edu/CRMSE/RP\\_JTS.html](http://public.sdsu.edu/CRMSE/RP_JTS.html)  
This paper by Judith T. Sowder, subtitled "Linking Research and Practice" was presented at the National Conference on Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in the Middle Grades in July 2000. Dr. Sowder discusses "some of what we know about mathematics in the middle school that affects the learning process." She uses several math problems to illustrate her points.

**NCTM EASTERN**

**REGIONAL**

**MATHEMATICS**

**CONFERENCE**

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**CONVENTION CENTER**

**PHILADELPHIA**

**12-14 OCTOBER 2000**

Please plan to attend:

This two-part session, (part of the NCTM regional meeting) designed specifically for math leaders, which will deal with practical strategies for championing a standards-based mathematics program.

Registration for conference is

required to attend these sessions.

To request Conference Preview Booklet:

email Name and Address to:

rubillloj@home.com or call 610-461-4656

or visit National Council of Teachers of Mathematics website

www.nctm.org for complete program listing

Leadership Issues

Related to Bringing the

NCTM Principals and

Standards to Life

**Grace Kelemank**

City on a Hill High School

Boston, Massachusetts

Thursday Oct. 12

(PART ONE)

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Convention Center

105 A

(PART TWO)

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Sponsored by Pennsylvania

and National Councils of

Supervisors of

Mathematics