
PCSM NEWSLETTER

Leaders in Mathematics Education

Spring 2003

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SUPERVISORS OF MATHEMATICS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President

- Carolyn Marchand

The PCSM meeting March 13, 2003, in the Poconos was a great success. Thank you, to everyone who contributed, and those who attended. Although four intense presentations were cramped by time constraints, the presenters provided excellent opportunities to keep us informed of current trends.

The Executive board decided to hold a breakfast meeting with only one presentation during the NCTM meeting in Philadelphia next Spring. The following Fall, PCSM will hold its meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2004, in conjunction with the PCTM Conference in Erie.

Congratulations to Mary Foley, PCSM President-elect. If you have suggestions or topics for next year's program, please send them to her. Welcome to Marcia Seeley our new Government Relations representative.

If the date on your mailing label is March '03 or earlier, please renew! To continue receiving the newsletter and other benefits of membership (see President's Message) renew today.

At the annual meeting in March the PCSM Executive Board approved a motion to send to all paid-up members copies of the book *IMAGES* (Improving Measurement and Geometry in the Elementary School) and an accompanying CD. The book and CD were donated to us and developed by the PA State Team for Mathematics and Science at Research for Better Schools (RBS). The complimentary copies have been sent to all paid-up members. We can send copies to members who renew as long as supplies last.

For those who are already experiencing a break from the past school year and those who have a few more weeks, please send a note of appreciation to educators who made a difference or shared ideas with you during the past year.

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In this Issue:

- President's Message
- PCSM Annual Meeting Minutes
- PCSM Executive Committee Minutes
- NCTM Representative Report
- PCSM Awards
- Upcoming Conferences
- Professional Organizations
- Electronic Resources
- Suggestions for Summer Reading
- ...and more

From the Editor

- Arlene Dowshen

I hope that all of you will spend some time this summer reading the *IMAGES* book and the accompanying CD. A number of PCSM members, myself included, were involved in putting together this valuable resource for teaching geometry and measurement in the elementary school. For more information you can contact Janie Zimmer at zimmer@rbs.org. Please join me in thanking Janie, the PA State Team, and Research for Better Schools (RBS) for providing the complimentary copies for all paid-up PCSM members. If your mailing label is March '03 or earlier, please renew your membership and while supplies last we can send you a copy of *IMAGES*.

Included with the newsletter is a form for joining the PA State Team for Mathematics and Science at RBS. As a member of the State Team you will receive the semiannual *RBS Currents* newsletter and will be on their email mailing list which provides you with important information about what is happening at the state and national levels in mathematics education. The latest issue of *Currents* (Spring/Summer 2003) is devoted to NCLB (*No Child Left Behind*). The articles provide an overview of the legislation and ideas for meeting its expectations. *Currents* is also available online at www.rbs.org/currents.

Enjoy the summer and the time that it affords us to reflect on what we do as educators and to prepare for a new school year.

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PCSM 26th ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
(Summary) - March 13, 2003

The 26th Annual Meeting was held at Split Rock Lodge, Lake Harmony, PA. It was held in conjunction with the 52nd Annual Meeting of PCTM. A complete breakfast buffet was provided through the courtesy of **McDougal Littell and Houghton Mifflin**.

President C. Marchand called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Member David Marchand was called upon to read a tribute to Frank Sottile who passed away on October 31, 2002. A moment of silence was observed in his memory. The minutes of the 25th Annual Meeting were approved.

Treasurer K. Hebert distributed the Treasurer's Report and the Membership Report. She reported a balance of \$16,517.70 and a current paid membership of 142 with 43 people not yet having renewed. Fred Stewart will chair a committee that will audit the books.

Nominations committee chair B. Schroeder reported that Mary Foley was elected President-Elect and Kathy Hebert was re-elected Treasurer.

NCTM Representative A. Massey reported on the NCTM position on mentoring; she summarized the three different arrangements that NCTM affiliates can make for consignments of NCTM materials to sell; and she asked for suggestions for resolutions to be presented to the Delegate Assembly.

Historian H. Field reported that he was authorized last year to purchase a box in which to store PCSM materials and he wanted everyone to know that he had done so.

Newsletter Editor A. Dowshen asked that members contact her if they have materials for publication. She especially is interested in materials from the western part of Pennsylvania.

There was no old business and no new business. President C. Marchand announced that Act 48 certificates would be available after lunch. The business meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

The first general session speaker was Janet White who will be joining the Millersville University Mathematics Department in the fall. Her topic was "Secondary Mathematics Teachers' Beliefs Regarding Their Preparation to Teach Upper Level Mathematics."

A coffee and pastry break was provided through the courtesy of **Prentice-Hall**.

The second general session featured Kathy Heid from Penn State who presented "New Perspectives on Mathematics for the Secondary Mathematics Teacher."

President C. Marchand thanked **Holt Rinehart and Winston/Harcourt** for the pens and **McGraw Hill** for the portfolios which were available at registration.

The third general session speaker was Doug Clements from the University of Buffalo. His topic was "Teaching What Counts."

The last general session speaker was Frank Marburger from PDE who presented "The No Child Left Behind Act and How It Affects Mathematics."

Lunch was provided through the courtesy of **Scott Foresman**.

Award Chair M. Foley presented the Award for Outstanding Service and Leadership to Arlene Dowshen, Newsletter Editor, and the Award for Outstanding Contribution to PCSM to Henry (Hank) Field, Historian. M. Foley encouraged members to submit nominations for awards.



**PCSM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
(Summary) – March 13, 2003**

Present: C. Marchand, presiding, A. Dowshen, H. Field, M. Foley, K. Hebert, A. Massey, J. Mowbray, F. Stewart, J. Zimmer

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM. The minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting were approved.

Treasurer and Membership Chair K. Hebert reported that we received more from PCTM Annual Meeting revenues and increased dues last year. She indicated that we might wish to find ways to use some of it. K. Hebert asked how long to keep expired members in the database. It was approved to send notice to those whose dues are in arrears from 2000 to 2003 that their membership privileges are about to expire.

A. Massey asked for \$300 for travel as NCTM Representative; this was approved.

Historian H. Field indicated that he will publish a list of missing minutes and treasurer's reports in the newsletter in the hope that someone will have copies.

Newsletter Editor A. Dowshen indicated that the next issue should be expected in mid-May. She will investigate the cost and advantages of having the newsletter commercially printed.

Awards Chair M. Foley asked that those who have suggestions for awards for next year contact her. She will have this request printed in the fall newsletter along with a history of the awards given, year by year.

Old Business:

A. Massey reported that NCSM is having a meeting of state and local leadership organizations in San Antonio on Monday, April 9, 2003, from 11:15 AM to noon; she plans to attend.

New Business:

A motion was approved to contribute \$200 to NCTM's Mathematics Education Trust in memory of Frank Sottile. A copy of the letter explaining Frank's importance, professionally and personally, will be sent to M. Foley who will see that Frank's mother receives it along with a fruit basket.

A committee consisting of A. Dowshen, H. Field, and K. Hebert was appointed to review the constitution and suggest possible changes. The committee will also write a mission statement for PCSM. H. Field asked that comments on possible changes in the constitution be sent to him.

The possibility of having a meeting next year in Philadelphia at the time of the NCTM Annual Convention was discussed. J. Zimmer offered the use of facilities at Research for Better Schools (RBS) which is near the Convention Center. It was agreed that we would have breakfast, a presentation by Frank Marburger from PDE, and one other presentation.

J. Zimmer reported that Eisenhower money for RBS will end after 2004. Efforts are being made to develop other funding Sources. She distributed a packet that describes the program, PA Teachers Enhance Achievement in Mathematics and Science: Helping to Meet the Goals of NCLB (PA Teams). The roles that members could undertake were described. F. Stewart agreed to represent PCSM in this effort.

It was suggested that copies of *IMAGES* (Improving Measurement and Geometry in the Elementary School) be sent out to members. J. Zimmer will check on the possibility of complimentary copies and an accompanying CD for all paid-up PCSM members.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Mowbray, Secretary

RBS invites you to the TIMSS Video Study Conference

**Newark/Wilmington, Delaware Area
August 6-7, 2003
(Registration Deadline: July 15, 2003)**

Using the recently-released TIMSS 1999 Video Study of Eighth Grade Mathematics Lessons this conference will feature mathematics lessons from several participating countries. Dr. James Hiebert of the University of Delaware will be a featured speaker. For more info contact C. Crociante at crociante@rbs.org. or visit www.rbs.org/mathsci/timss/videoconf/index.shtml.

NCTM Representative Report

NCTM Conference, San Antonio, TX

Each year at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), Affiliates of NCTM participate in regional caucuses and a Delegate Assembly. Resolutions that have been submitted by Affiliate Groups are discussed, amended, and voted on as necessary during the regional caucuses. If members of the appropriate regional caucus support the resolution, it is presented to the delegate assembly.

Affiliate resolutions are recommendations on council practices or policies related to mathematics education, membership, or organizational procedures. These resolutions serve to inform NCTM's Board of Directors of the thinking of Affiliate Groups. If a resolution is passed at the Delegate Assembly, it goes to the Board who decides what action should be taken.

I was honored to represent PCSM and respectfully submit my report on the two meetings held at the 54th NCTM Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

EASTERN 2 REGIONAL CAUCUS

The Caucus for Eastern 2 representing Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia met at the Convention Center in San Antonio on April 9th. Honi Bamberger and Marshalyn Baker chaired the caucus.

This year several members of the NCTM Board attended each of the caucuses. Their input was invaluable because they provided informative background on pertinent issues, especially on registration fees for presenters at annual meetings. Board members stated that since presenters have been required to pay 40% of the registration fee, there have been fewer cancellations. This year 2400 proposals were submitted for sessions; 1240 were accepted; only 5 cancelled. More classroom teachers submitted proposals; however there was a decline in proposals from middle school teachers.

NCTM has compiled data about fees charged presenters by other organizations. NCTM ranks at the top of the list for giving discounts to presenters; most organizations give no financial support to presenters. One item that was rather disturbing to me was the fact that NCTM pools the money from regional and national conferences. Since several regionals lose money, NCTM tries to make up these losses through profits from the national conference.

THE 2003 NCTM DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Carrying our gold Texas cowboy-hat fans, Chris

Czapleski, Carolyn Marchand, Nina Girard, Mary Lou Metz, and I met as the Pennsylvania contingent to the Delegate Assembly on April 10th. Waving cowboy-hat fans added jest and zest to the early morning assembly.

President Johnny Lott presented a charter to the recently approved NCTM Student Affiliate, the Council of Teachers of Mathematics at Texas A & M University – Corpus Christi. (Presently there are some discussions on forming student affiliates in Pennsylvania.)

Only two resolutions came before the Assembly and they both dealt with speaker registration fees at NCTM Annual Conferences. The saga continues to be a major concern of many affiliate groups.

Resolutions Passed by the 2003 Delegate Assembly

Resolution O.R.03.03 (passed) - Be it resolved that the Delegate Assembly recommends to the NCTM Board of Directors that the policy of one free speaker registration per regular session be reinstated at future NCTM Annual Conferences. (Submitted by the California Mathematics Council, Southern Section; Vote: 59 for, 44 against.)

Resolution O.NR.03.01 (passed) - Be it resolved that the Delegate Assembly recommends to the NCTM Board of Directors that a survey of the entire membership regarding the current policy of speaker registration fees to annual conferences be completed as soon as possible and the results be reported back to Affiliates. (Submitted by the British Columbia Association of Mathematics Teachers; Vote: 61 for, 44 against.) Note: All Pennsylvania delegates voted "against" both resolutions.

Ann Massey
PCSM Representative to NCTM
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NOTE: If you missed the Las Vegas Meeting, go to <<http://www.nctm.org/meetings/sanantonio/index.htm>> to view video highlights, session handouts and more. Webcasts of the meeting can be viewed at <<http://www.nctm.org/meetings/webcasts.htm>>.

PCSM Annual Awards

The following awards were presented at the Annual Luncheon:

The **Outstanding Contribution to PCSM Award** was presented to Henry (Hank) Field. Hank has been an active member of PCSM since its inception in 1978. In 1994 he received the Distinguished Service Award for his work with the organization and in 2002 he compiled "A Brief History of PCSM" for PCSM's 25th anniversary. He is currently the Historian and a valuable member of the Executive Board.

Arlene Dowshen, who has served as Newsletter Editor since 1998, received the **Distinguished Service Award** for the excellent work she has done on the Newsletter. I am sure we will all agree that Arlene has done an outstanding job and we look forward to her keeping us up to date on the latest trends in mathematics education.

Congratulations to Hank and Arlene!

Mary Foley, Awards Chair



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

First U.S. Conference on the Use of Computer Algebra Systems (CAS) June 21-22, 2003, Glenview, IL
For more information and conference registration visit <http://www4.glenbrook.k12.il.us/USACAS/2003.html>.

NCSM Leadership Academies
July 10-12, Park City, Utah
Information and registration form are available at: <http://www.ncsmonline.org/LeadershipAcademy/academy.html> or email Jim Bohan at mathmanjb@aol.com.

NCTM Academy for Professional Development - Geometry July 17-19, 2003, Salt Lake City, Utah
(registration deadline: June 20)

Data August 7-9, 2003, Grand Rapids, Michigan
(registration deadline: July 11)

For the most up-to-date information visit www.nctm.org/academy.

Core-Plus Mathematics Project - Contemporary Mathematics in Context August 4-8, 2003, University of Pittsburgh

Training sessions for teachers currently using Contemporary Mathematics in Context or planning to implement the curriculum during 2003-2004.

Information available at <http://www.wmich.edu/cmpmp/events.html>.

TIMSS Video Study: Examining Mathematics Teaching and Learning Conference

August 6-7, 2003, Newark/Wilmington, DE
(registration deadline: July 15)

For more information contact Carol Crociante at crociante@rbs.org or visit <http://www.rbs.org/mathsci/timss/videoconf/index.shtml>.

International Symposium on Elementary Mathematics Teaching August 24-29, 2003, Prague, Czech Republic

For more information visit email jarmila.novotna@cuni.cz.

School Science and Mathematics Association

October 23-25, 2003, Columbus, OH

Visit www.ssmas.org.

AMTE (Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators) 8th Annual Conference

January 22-24, 2004, San Diego, CA

For more information visit www.amte.net.

Research Council on Mathematics Learning

February 19-21, 2004, Oklahoma City, OK

For more information visit www.unlv.edu/RCML.

NCSM 36th Annual Conference

April 19-21, 2004, Philadelphia, PA

For more information visit ncsmonline.org.

Mark your calendars!

The NCTM 2004 Annual Conference will be in Philadelphia, PA

April 21-24, 2004

The Pennsylvania Convention Center

Professional Organizations to Consider Joining

Woman and Mathematics Education (WME)

WME's general purpose is to promote the mathematics education of girls and woman. For information, contact Dorothy Buerk, WME Membership Chair, Math/Computer Science Dept., 1212 Williams Hall, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY 14850-7284 or Buerk@Ithaca.edu.

Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE)

Visit <http://www.amte.net> for more information.

TODOS: Mathematics for ALL

A new national organization was formally launched at the NCTM meeting in April, 2003, in San Antonio, TX, "to advocate for an equitable and high quality mathematics education for ALL students, in particular Latino/Hispanic students, by advancing the professional growth and equity awareness of educators." For more information visit www.todos-math.org or contact Miriam Leiva, President, at maleiva@mail.uncc.edu.



Electronic Resources

TIMSS (Third International Mathematics and Science Study) Publications and Resources

Numerous resources related to the TIMSS studies can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/timss/>. Click on "Reports/Products" and then on "View all Publications."

The results of the recently released TIMSS 1999 Video Study are available for free download from the LessonLab Web site (www.lessonlab.com). An online course designed for teachers and administrators is also available at this Web site.

"A Coherent Curriculum--The Case of Mathematics" by William Schmidt, Richard Houang, and Leland Cogan. After analyzing the data from TIMSS the authors conclude that education in the U.S. suffers from the lack of a common, coherent curriculum. The article is available at www.aft.org/american_educator/summer2002/curriculum.pdf.

Research and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) Articles and recent developments related to this important legislation are available at www.nctm.org/highered/nclb.htm.

Women in Math Project This Web site includes publications, biographies, links to other sites, statistics about women in mathematics, and more. Visit <http://darwing.uoregon.edu/~wmnmath>.

DIGITAL DOZEN: Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC) Every month ENC highlights twelve exemplary math and science Web sites at www.enc.org (click on "Digital Dozen").

Self Testing in Mathematics

The NCESKIDS Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/eyk/> has 20 middle school mathematics items for students to use in self-testing their knowledge and comparing it with international peers.

Another similar, but more extensive Web site is <http://www.getsmarter.org>. This site was created by the Council on Competitiveness and covers both middle and high school levels. This Web site uses TIMSS-like items to challenge students. Also included on this site are educational games, real world examples of math and science in action, and links to other sites.

Subscribe to NCTM's Webnews which informs you about the latest news and resources available from the NCTM Web site. Visit www.nctm.org/webnews/ to subscribe.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMER READING

One Size Fits Few--The Folly of Educational Standards by Susan Ohanian (Heinemann, 1999). An interesting and thought provoking book in which the author recounts her quest to make sense of the standards movement. Our Executive Board member, Fred Stewart, highly recommends this book. (Available at <www.heinemann.com>.)

According to the Book, Using TIMSS to Investigate the Translation of Policy into Proactice through the World of Textbooks by William Schmidt, et al. This book presents findings from the curriculum analysis of the 1995 TIMSS study, and relates these findings to the world of textbook publishing in the U.S. (Available at <www.rbs.org/catalog/pubs/pd56.shtml>.)

Reading Counts: Expanding the Role of Reading in Mathematics Classrooms by R. Borasi and M. Siegel (Teacher's College, Columbia University, 2000). The authors aim to integrate reading into school mathematics and offer specific techniques and strategies for doing this. (Available at <<http://store.tpress.com/0807739200.shtml#112>>.)

Adding It Up: Helping Children Learn Mathematics edited by Jeremy Kilpatrick, Jane Swafford, and Bradford Findell. (National Academy Press, 2001) This important publication "is a synthesis of the relevant research on mathematics learning from pre-kindergarten through grade 8." An excellent review of this book written by Judith E. Jacobs can be found at <www.amte.net> (click on "Current Newsletter" and scroll to p. 9 of the PDF file). The book can be ordered or read online at <www.nap.edu/catalog/9822.html>.



Mathematics Competitions (Listed in COMET, California Online Mathematics Education Times, December, 2002. See <<http://csmp.ucop.edu/cmp/comet/>>)

American Mathematics Competitions (AMC) (<<http://www.unl.edu/amc/>>): AMC seeks to increase interest in mathematics and to develop problem solving ability through a series of friendly mathematics competitions for junior/middle and senior high school students (grades 7 through 12).

Mandelbrot Competition (<<http://www.mandelbrot.org/>>): Introduces high school students of all ability levels to new topics in mathematics. Individual and team entries.

Mathcounts (<<http://www.mathcounts.org/>>): A coaching and competition program for middle school students throughout the nation.

U.S.A. Mathematical Talent Search (USAMTS) (<<http://www.nsa.gov/programs/mepp/usamts.html>>): A free mathematics competition open to all high school students in the U.S.

The **MathematicallySane Website** (<<http://MathematicallySame.com/home.asp>>) has added two new resources to the Web site:

*Singapore has been dubbed by some to have all the answers for mathematics education. Yet they are now using a standards-based text developed in the U.S. See ("New & Notable.")

*"Responding to Calls for Change in High School Mathematics" outlines how mathematics reform in high school, in particular the Core-Plus curriculum, prepares students for college. (See "Evidence.")

Visit the Web site and consider joining!

Pennsylvania Council of Supervisors of Mathematics

An affiliate of PCTM and NCSM

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