
PCSM NEWSLETTER

Leaders in Mathematics Education

June 2004

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SUPERVISORS OF MATHEMATICS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President

- Carolyn Marchand

I hope many members were able to share the experience of attending the NCSM 36th Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Many PCSM members gave their time and expertise as presenters, presiders, and workers. Thank you.

Steve Leinwand, former NCSM President, and now a researcher at the American Institute for Research in Washington, D.C., gave one of the most impressive presentations I attended. He stressed the importance of fighting isolation among educators, particularly within the same building. He also noted that we must show commitment to continuous improvement through collaborative and collegial efforts that include sharing and discussing videotaped classes, techniques, and strategies.

If the date on your mailing label is March '04 or earlier, please renew! To continue receiving the newsletter and other benefits of membership renew today.

The Constitution Review Committee, Arlene Dowshen, Hank Fields, and Kathy Hebert, have completed the draft of a revision. Thanks to them, we will have an updated Constitution. The Executive Board will continue discussion on the revision at the October meeting in Erie.

Arlene Dowshen has continued to produce an excellent newsletter for PCSM. She is planning to leave as editor in the near future. If you would be interested or know someone who would edit the newsletter, please contact Arlene. Thanks.

Mary Foley has put together an exciting program for our annual meeting, Thursday, October 28, 2004, at the Avalon Hotel, Erie, PA. Plan to join us.

Carolyn Marchand
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From the Editor

- Arlene Dowshen

By now most of you will have completed the 2003-2004 school year. I know that many of you will be involved in some type of professional development during the summer months, either as a presenter or a participant. For those of us in education, the summer provides time to reflect on what we have done, to prepare for the next school year, and to continue our mission as lifelong learners. Please consider attending the *IMAGES* summer institute or share this information with teachers in your school district who could benefit from this professional development effort.

Also please consider sharing what you do as a teacher or supervisor by writing an article for the newsletter. Submissions can be sent to me by email or at the address listed below.

Enjoy the summer, read some good books, and recharge your batteries for the new school year.

Any correspondence can be sent to:
Arlene L. Dowshen
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One University Place
Chester, PA 19013
(610) 499-1245
dowshen@maths.widener.edu

Development of New ERIC Database

The ERIC database, the world's largest education database, is composed of more than one million bibliographic records. The goal of the new ERIC is to provide more education materials quicker, and more directly. While under development, the current database will continue to be available at <www.eric.ed.gov>.

PCSM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES (Summary) – April 21, 2004

Present: C. Marchand, presiding, G. Battisto, A. Dowshen, H. Field, M. Foley, J. Martin, J. Mowbray

This meeting was held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in connection with the annual meetings of the National Council of supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM) and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

The meeting was called to order at 2:24 PM by President Carolyn Marchand. She welcomed those present and reported that she had received a note of thanks from Josephine Sottile for the fruit basket and letter that were sent in memory of her son, Dr. Frank Sottile.

The minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's report was distributed. It showed a balance of \$16,765.34 as of 4/1/04. It was agreed to file the report for audit.

The Membership report showed 150 paid up members as of 3/3/04 and 191 in the database.

A. Dowshen suggested that the *IMAGES* CD of the second edition of *IMAGES, Improving Measurement and Geometry in Elementary Schools*, be sent out to members. She will ask Janie Zimmer what the cost will be. It was suggested that the CDs be brought to the annual meeting to be distributed to members in attendance and sent to the others.

It was agreed to postpone consideration of nominations and elections until after further consideration of the constitution revisions and to accommodate the change in meeting time.

Expenses in the amount of \$300 were approved for Ann Massey, our NCTM Rep, to attend the NCTM meeting in Philadelphia.

Historian H. Field indicated that the last box that he obtained to store documents is full and that he needs another. An amount of \$50 was approved for this purpose.

Newsletter Editor A. Dowshen asked

that suggestions for items to be included in upcoming newsletters be sent to her. Also she felt that it was time to look for a new editor for the newsletter; she indicated that she would be willing to co-edit the newsletter until the new editor was ready to do it alone.

Awards Chair G. Battisto reported that she has not received any nominations for PCSM awards. She will send out another call for nominations for awards to be given in October in Erie. It was suggested that nominations from the western part of the state be given consideration.

Constitution Chair H. Field passed out a proposed constitution incorporating changes that the committee discussed. Article III, Section 5 is a particular problem since we now will meet at a different time of the year. After much discussion, H. Field asked the Board to review the draft constitution and prepare to make comments at our October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Mowbray, Secretary

Opportunity in Geometry for K-8 Teachers

State test results indicate that students are achieving poorly in geometry and measurement. Work with teachers has shown that these are areas in which teachers' content knowledge needs to be strengthened.

To help improve teaching and learning in geometry, Research for Better Schools (RBS) has designed a summer workshop to address teachers' content needs in measurement and geometry and also to look at cognitive issues, instructional and assessment strategies, activities, lesson plans, links to literature, and other resources. RBS invites you to attend the IMAGES (Improving Geometry and Measurement in Elementary Schools) Institute in Harrisburg, PA, July 7-9, 2004.

For more information, please go to <http://images.rbs.org/institute/2004/> or contact Janie Zimmer at 215-568-6150 ext. 329 or Donna Rocca at 215-568-6150 ext. 245. Also see enclosed IMAGES brochure.

**PCSM Annual Awards
Call for Nominations**

The next meeting of PCSM will be at the site of the PCTM 53rd Annual Meeting in Erie on October 28, 2004. PCSM awards will be presented at that time.

Nominations for PCSM awards are due by September 1, 2004. Awards are presented for:

- Outstanding Contributions to PCSM
- Outstanding Contributions to Supervision
- Supervisor Hall of Fame Award

To nominate a colleague for an award, simply specify which award and give a summary of the individual's professional background and contributions to PCSM and/or the field of supervision or mathematics education leadership. Also indicate whether you would wish to participate in the presentation ceremony at the PCSM meeting. It is only through the efforts of members who take the time to make a nomination that we have the opportunity to reward our special leaders.

Previous winners of the Hall of Fame Award include: Doris Creswell, Donald Scheuer, Dr. Alan Barson, Dr. Alex Tobin, Genevieve Battisto, David Marchand, Fred Stewart, Dr. Ann Bacon, Dr. Frank Sottile, Dr. Al Mauthe, Frank Reardon, Lois Barson.

Nominations should be sent to:

Gen Battisto, PCSM Awards Chair
37 Reeder Street
Mt. Pocono, PA 18344
or
genb@pnpa.net
For questions, you may phone 570-839-7152.

NCTM Conference, Philadelphia, PA

THE 2004 NCTM DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

The 2004 Delegate Assembly of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics met in Philadelphia on April 22nd. At this 55th Delegate Assembly, President Johnny Lott presented new charters to three approved NCTM Affiliates: (1) Council of Teachers of Mathematics at Texas A & M University in Kingsville, (2) Longwood University Student Council of Teachers of Mathematics (Virginia), and (3) TODOS: Mathematics for ALL (Arizona).

The new national mathematics education organization, TODOS: Mathematics for ALL, merits some additional commentary. The group grew from the work of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee. The mission of the organization is 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. The members are classroom teachers, mathematics specialists, researchers, and administrators who are dedicated to providing leadership in the field of equity and mathematics education, in particular as related to Latino/Hispanic and other students from underrepresented groups.

Only one resolution was presented, amended and passed. That resolution, presented by the Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics, was as follows: Be it resolved that the Delegate Assembly recommends to the NCTM Board of Directors that NCTM be actively involved in federal legislation for No Child Left Behind in the areas of mathematics principles and standards, assessment, instruction, professional development, and teacher quality.

2004 EASTERN 1/EASTERN 2 REGIONAL

CAUCUS

Prior to the NCTM Delegate Assembly, five regional caucuses and one affiliates-at-large caucus were held. The Pennsylvania delegation met with delegates from the Eastern 2 Region (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, and West Virginia) and the Eastern 1 Region (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont). For the last two years NCTM has been making an effort to attend the regional caucuses. The rationale for Board Member attendance is to acquaint representatives with current NCTM goals and emphases and to facilitate workings in caucuses by presenting the NCTM position and history on questions and resolutions that arise. This year most of the time in our caucus was devoted to reports and comments by the three NCTM Board Members who attended.

Although this representative admires the dedication of the Board members, she wonders whether their presence facilitates efficiency in a caucus or stifles discussion. Note that only one resolution was presented to the Delegate Assembly where there has usually been some lively discussion on several resolutions.

Ann Massey
PCSM Representative to NCTM
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NOTE: If you missed the Philadelphia Meeting, go to <<http://www.nctm.org/meetings/philadelphia/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>>.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

NCSM Leadership Academies

July 28-31, 2004, Park City, Utah

Information and registration form are available at:
<<http://www.ncsmonline.org/LeadershipAcademy/academy.html>>.

NCTM Academy for Professional Development - Assessment

July 24-26, 2004, Cleveland, Ohio

September 29-October 1, 2004, Indianapolis, Indiana

For more information on this and other NCTM Academy Workshops, call toll free (800) 235-7566 or visit
<www.nctm.org/academy>.

Investigations Workshops for Transforming Mathematics

August 9-13, 2004, Pittsburgh, PA

If you are using or planning to use *Investigations in Number, Data and Space* in your classroom this coming year, you may want to attend this workshop.

For more information visit <<http://investigations-workshops.terc.edu/home.cfm>>.

School Science and Mathematics Association

October 21-23, 2004, Atlanta, GA

Visit <www.ssma.org>.

PCTM Annual Meeting

Explore EERIE Math in Erie

October 28-29, 2004, Erie, PA

For more information visit <<http://www.pctm.org>>

PCSM Annual Meeting

October 28, 2004, Erie, PA

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

January 27-29, 2005, Dallas, TX

For more information visit <www.amte.net>.



Electronic Resources

Riptides, monthly mathematics and science education news from RBS

March 2004: Lesson Study

April 2004: Meeting the NCLB Challenge

May 2004: Brain Research

<<http://lists.rbs.org/archives/riptides.html>>

Block Scheduling - ERIC Digest

<<http://www.ericfacility.net/ericdigests/>

[ed393156.html](http://www.ericfacility.net/ericdigests/ed393156.html)>.

Evaluating Curricular Effectiveness: Judging the Quality of K-12 Mathematics Evaluations

This report is available at <<http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11008.html>>.

Improving Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning

To access this valuable new resource, visit:

<<http://www.mathsciencenetwork.org/products.htm>>.

Center for Learning and Teaching

NSF funded effort to focus on mathematics curriculum. Visit <<http://mathcurriculumcenter.org>>.

Upcoming TIMSS Reports

J. Hieber, et al., "Teaching Mathematics in the U.S.: Comparing Results from the TIMSS 1995 and TIMSS 1999 Video Studies of Eighth Grade Mathematics Lessons."

Comparative Indicators of Education in the U.S. and other G8 Countries, 2004.

P. Gonzales, et al., "Variability in U.S. Student Achievement in International Assessments."

"TIMSS 2003: Trends in Mathematics Achievement around the World" (expected in mid-December, 2004).

M. Lemke, et al., "Characteristics of U.S. 15-Year Old Low Achievers in an International Context: Findings from PISA (Programme for International Assessment) 2000."

"First Results from PISA 2003" - PISA 2003 focused primarily on the mathematics literacy and problem solving among 15-year olds.

For more information, contact Patsy Wang-Iverson, Research for Better Schools (RBS) at wang@rbs.org.