

# Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America

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Executive Committee Meeting

April 19, 2013

Clarion Hotel, Dunkirk New York

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 pm with Jennifer Quinn (Association Visitor), Charlie Ragozzine, John Maceli, Gary Towsley, Hossein Shahmohamad, Ryan Gantner, and Gary Raduns in attendance.

The minutes of the October 2012 Executive Committee, Extended Executive Committee, and Business Meetings were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and were approved by consensus.

Outgoing chair, Hossein Shahmohamad extended his thanks to all the members of the Section leadership.

The Governor, Gary Towsley, provided a written report in the Seaway Current and mentioned a few specifics in his verbal report:

- The Association has revised the dues structure to significantly reduce the number of levels of membership/dues.
- The MAA books program is strategically moving toward publishing high-quality affordable books suitable for use as textbooks.
- The Meritorious Service Awards will be presented at Math Fest rather than at the Joint Mathematics Meetings.
- The Association is hoping to expand participation in the American Mathematics Contest (AMC). There was significant discussion of colleges and universities in the Section hosting the contest (\$35 plus \$18 per bundle of 10 exams).
- The Association is trying to make the award amounts more uniform for the various writing awards.

Treasurer, Gary Towsley, provided a written statement in the Seaway Current. In his verbal report he noted that after the Fall meeting the balance was up approximately \$500. He also made an interesting observation that Fall meetings tend to be money-makers, and Spring meetings tend to lose money.

First Vice Chair, Ryan Ganter observed that it is helpful to have chairs of the named lecture committees participate on the Program Committee. He also mentioned venues and local organizers for the next two meetings:

- October 2013, SUNY Potsdam, Derek Habermas. Aaron Luttmann will be returning to Potsdam as an invited speaker for this meeting.
  - April 2014, Buffalo State College, Jane Cushman.
- The Clarence Stephens Distinguished Teaching Award Committee has selected Keary Howard of SUNY Fredonia as this year's recipient.

New Business:

- The Executive Committee again has declined to send financial support to the Association for Project NEXt.
- Discussion of the Association's financial picture includes that the Association has lost money in each of the last ten years. Steps to address some of this involve bringing order-fulfillment back in-house, including e-journals in membership with additional for print copies, and promoting AMC.
- Second vice-chair continues to be vacant, there was a suggestion made for a person to consider.
- The MAA is preparing a book on the history of the Association and is requesting information from the Sections. Gary Towsley indicated that he has Seaway Currents dating from circa 1990. Historical archives of the Section are also of interest as the Section is approaching its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Raduns  
Seaway Section Secretary

Extended Executive Committee  
April 19, 2013  
Clarion Hotel, Dunkirk, New York

The Executive Committee meeting moved into Extended Executive Committee meeting at 4:33 pm.

The Program Committee reports two of the speakers for the Fall 2013 meeting at SUNY Potsdam: Aaron Luttmann (formerly at SUNY Potsdam) and Chris Godsell (Waterloo University).

The Student Program Committee (Dave Brown, chair) sent an e-mail report highlighting 16 student presentations at this meeting and a game show hosted by Blaire Madore following the Friday evening banquet.

The Chair gave a brief overview of the discussions from the preceding Executive Committee meeting.

The Randolph Lecture Committee had no report.

The Gehman Lecture Committee reported the selection of Ted Cox to speak at this Spring meeting.

Educational Policies Committee had no report.

The Distinguished Teaching Award Selection Committee reported that they had a strong pool of candidates and selected Keary Howard for recognition this year.

The Nominating Committee reported on the continuing vacancy in the position of Second Vice-Chair. This position is for a faculty member from a two-year college.

The editor of the Seaway Current, Margaret Morrow, raised a question of what content to include in the Current. Discussion focused on the value of archiving programs, abstracts, and bios of keynote speakers in the Current. Although these materials are available on the meeting sites, meeting sites are run by the host institution and the persistence of the site cannot be assured.

Seaway NExT reports the discussion themes for this meeting are coaching of student presentations and administration of the Section. There are 12 participants at this meeting.

Jeff Johannes asked the Extended Executive Committee to discuss making a nominal contribution to Project NExT. The suggestion did not gather support.

The Extended Executive Committee adjourned at 5:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Raduns  
Seaway Section Secretary

## Business Meeting

April 20, 2013

SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am with approximately 20 members present.

Outgoing chair, Hossein Shahmohamad, again expressed his thanks to the leadership committees with whom he has served as chair and introduced the incoming Chair, Charlie Ragozzine.

The Seaway Section Governor, Gary Towsley, gave highlights of his written report:

- The Association has revised the dues structure to significantly reduce the number of levels of membership/dues.
- The MAA books program is strategically moving toward publishing high-quality affordable books suitable for use as textbooks.
- Book Sale at the Meeting: Books on display; however, purchases can be made by placing an order at the display or online using a 35% discount code. 10% of sales using this code are returned to the Section.
- The Meritorious Service Awards will be presented at Math Fest rather than at the Joint Mathematics Meetings.
- The Association is hoping to expand participation in the American Mathematics Contest (AMC). There was significant discussion of colleges and universities in the Section hosting the contest (\$35 plus \$18 per bundle of 10 exams).
- The Association is trying to make the award amounts more uniform for the various writing awards.

Secretary, Gary Raduns, had no report beyond minutes as distributed in the Seaway Current.

Treasurer, Gary Towsley, made reference to the report contained in the Seaway Current and highlighted that balances have been growing about \$1200 per year and observations that Spring meetings have been producing losses and fall meetings small gains over the past three years. In response to a question from the floor, the Section is not considering on-line payment options at this time.

Ryan Gantner reported on behalf of the Program Committee that we have secured two speakers for the Fall Meeting at SUNY Potsdam: Aaron Luttman (DOE) and Chris Godsell (U. of Waterloo).

The Student Program Committee reports strong participation at this meeting and expressed thanks to Blaire Madore for hosting the mathematics game show for students last night.

The Randolph Lecture Committee is looking for a speaker for the Fall Meeting.

The Gehman Lecture Committee selected J. Theodore Cox (Syracuse University) to present the Gehman Lecture Today.

The Distinguished Teaching Award Committee reported the selection of Keary Howard to receive the Clarence Stephens Distinguished Teaching Award and called for nominations for next year's award recipient.

The Nominating Committee reported the continuing vacancy in Second Vice Chair.

The Editor of the Seaway Current reports that the Current is available online and the news from the departments is always appreciated.

The Chair reported that the Fall 2013 Meeting will be held at SUNY Potsdam and the Spring 2014 Meeting at Buffalo State College. The Section is continuing to look for hosts beyond Spring 2014. He also reported that the Executive Committee "kindly said 'No.'" to the Associations request for money to help fund Project NExT.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Raduns  
Seaway Section Secretary