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First Forty Years of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Society of America; Iowa Section By-Laws

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First Forty Years of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Society of America

By FRED ROBERTSON

When an organization celebrates its 40th year it is a good time to review the accomplishments and failures of the past, and to investigate ways to build for the future. Just 40 years less one week and one day the organizational meeting of "The Mathematical Association of America" was held in room 19 Memorial Hall, Drake University on April 28, 1916 in response to a call made by the general assembly of the "Iowa Academy of Science". Thus the Iowa Academy of Science may be said to sponsor the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America and the ties between the two organizations have been close ever since.

The first regular meeting was held at Grinnell April 28, 1917. The aim of the Section was to promote the interests of Mathematics especially in the secondary level. The first programs were devoted to problems in teaching. As time passed the programs veered more to topics of research but lately a strong tendency has developed to return to the original idea of the founders of the Section.

The reports of the charter membership and first few meetings follows:

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP*

The following is a preliminary report of the charter membership giving only the name of each member and the institution represented. As soon as possible there will be published a complete directory, giving the official position and mailing address of each member. Meanwhile, we invite careful scrutiny of the present list in order to detect any omissions or errors which may have escaped the attention of the secretary in the arduous task of checking up the returns.

Edna Allen, Iowa State Teachers College.
R. P. Baker, State University of Iowa.
W. E. Beck, State University of Iowa.
G. A. Chaney, State College of Agriculture.
Julia T. Colpitts, State College of Agriculture.
I. S. Condit, Iowa State Teachers College.
S. A. Corey, Wapello Coal Company, Albia.
Marian E. Daniells, State College of Agriculture.
C. W. Emmons, Simpson College.
Fay Farnum, State College of Agriculture.
Cornelius Gouwens, State University of Iowa.
S. M. Hadley, Penn College.
Gertrude A. Herr, State College of Agriculture.

*As defined in American Mathematical Monthly Vol. XXIII April, 1916 No. 4, p. 134 and 137.

Daniel Kreth, Wellman.
 R. B. McClenon, Grinnell College.
 F. M. McGaw, Cornell College.
 Nina Madson, State College of Agriculture.
 I. F. Neff, Drake University.
 Mrs. Mary B. Norton, Cornell College.
 E. A. Pattengill, State College of Agriculture.
 J. F. Reilly, State University of Iowa.
 Maria M. Roberts, State College of Agriculture.
 J. E. Robertson, Highland Park College.
 W. J. Rusk, Grinnell College.
 B. F. Simonson, Upper Iowa University.
 A. G. Smith, State University of Iowa.
 S. G. Stein, Muscatine.
 E. H. Thomas, Tabor College.
 E. L. Thompson, Burlington High School.
 R. N. Van Horne, Sioux City.
 C. W. Wester, State University of Iowa.
 John Zimmerman, Dubuque German College and Seminary.

I. F. Neff, Secretary-Treasurer
 April 28, 1916

In response to a call made at the general assembly of the "Iowa Academy of Science" held at Des Moines, Ia. April 28, 1916 the following men met in Room 19, Memorial Hall, Drake University, for the purpose of planning for an Iowa Section of "The Mathematical Association of America"; A. G. Smith; R. P. Baker; John F. Reilly; R. B. McClenon; G. A. Chaney; and I. F. Neff.

Provisional organization was effected with the following officers:
 A. G. Smith, President.
 G. A. Chaney, Vice-President.
 I. F. Neff, Secretary-Treasurer.

It was decided that a petition be prepared asking for a charter for an Iowa Section of "The Mathematical Association of America", and the signatures of as many eligible men and women as possible be obtained.

It was decided that the next meeting be held at the same time and place as the "Iowa Academy of Science".

Motion made that a membership committee of two be appointed by the chair. Carried. Chair appointed R. B. McClenon and John F. Reilly.

Motion made that all joining before the first day of July 1916 be regarded as charter members. Carried.

After some informal discussion as to the future policy of the Association and the efforts that should be made to secure a large membership, the meeting adjourned.

Signed: I. F. Neff, Secretary-Treasurer

Report of the first regular meeting of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America held at Grinnell, Iowa, April 28, 1917.

The following program was given:

1. "A Unified Course for Freshman Mathematics." By Professor R. B. McClenon, Grinnell College. Leader of the discussion, Professor Julia Colpitts, Iowa State College.

2. "The Foundation of Freshman Mathematics in the Technical Schools." By Dean E. W. Stanton, but on account of his inability to be present the paper was read by Professor Maria Roberts, Iowa State College. Leaders of the discussion, Professor J. F. Reilly, Iowa State University and Professor C. W. Emmons, Simpson College.

3. "Putting Life into Dry Bones." By Professor F. M. McGaw, Cornell College. Leaders of the discussion, Professors W. J. Rusk, Grinnell College and W. E. Beck, Iowa State University. Meeting adjourned to attend the general meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science.

G. A. Chaney, Chairman
I. F. Neff, Secretary

Minutes of the business meeting of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America, Grinnell, Iowa.

Meeting called to order by the Chairman.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

Professor J. F. Reilly spoke concerning the Charter which was granted but due to the illness and decease of the Chairman Professor A. G. Smith had been misplaced and apparently lost. Professor Reilly offered to make further efforts to secure this Charter.

Motion made by Professor McClenon that we arrange two meetings each year. Carried.

Motion made that the executive committee determine the time and place of each meeting. Carried.

Election of officers resulted in the following being chosen:
Chairman, I. F. Neff.

Vice-chairman, R. B. McClenon.

Secretary, W. E. Beck.

Motion made to adjourn. Carried.

I. F. Neff, Secretary
G. A. Chaney, Chairman

Report of the second regular meeting of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America held at Des Moines, Iowa Friday, November 2, 1917.

The following program was given:

1. "Freshman Mathematics." By Prof. Ira C. Condit, Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Leaders of the discussion: Prof. S. M. Hadley, Penn. College, Oskaloosa, Iowa and Prof. E. W. Stanton, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

2. "Correlation of Method and Problem." By Prof. R. P. Baker, Iowa State University, Iowa City, Iowa. Leaders of the discussion: Prof. E. E. Watson, Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa and

Prof. R. N. Van Horne, Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa.

3. "The Mathematical Trend in Secondary Schools." By Prof. Geo. A. Chaney, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. Leaders of the discussion: Prof. L. G. Halbrook, Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa and A. J. Oehler, University High School, Iowa City, Iowa.

Meeting adjourned to attend the meeting of the Iowa Association of Mathematics Teachers.

I. F. Neff, Chairman

W. E. Beck, Secretary

Minutes of the business meeting of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America, Des Moines, Iowa.

Motion made that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to take up the matter of a Syllabus in Freshman Mathematics for Iowa Colleges. Carried.

The chair appointed Ira S. Condit, Maria M. Roberts, and R. B. McClenon, Prof. Condit being unable to serve. Prof. John F. Reilly was appointed to fill his place.

Minutes of the business meeting of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America, Ames, Iowa, April 27, 1918.

Meeting called to order by the chairman.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

Motion made to appoint a committee of three to draw up a resolution to present to the State Board that all teachers of High School mathematics be required to have at least one year of college mathematics. Carried.

The chair appointed G. A. Chaney, E. E. Watson, Mrs. M. B. Norton.

Election of officers resulted in the following being chosen:

Chairman, Maria F. Roberts

Vice-Chairman, John F. Reilly

Secretary, C. W. Wester

Motion made to extend a note of thanks to the Mathematical Department of Ames for their hospitality. Carried.

Motion made to adjourn. Carried.

I. F. Neff, Chairman

W. E. Beck, Secretary

PROGRAM

Iowa Section of The Mathematical Association of America.

Ames, Iowa, April 27, 1918, 9:00 A.M.

1. "The Content of a Course in Arithmetic" _15 Min. C. W. Wester, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Leader of the discussion; W. Lee Jordan, Des Moines, Iowa.

2. "How May the College Help to Improve the Teaching of Mathematics in the Secondary Schools" _15 Min. Mrs. M. B. Norton, Mount Vernon, Iowa. Leader of the discussion; E. A. Pattengill, Ames, Iowa.

3. "Natural and Normal Interest in Mathematics" _15 Min.
B. F. Simonson, Fayette, Iowa.

4. "Place of Mathematics of Investment in a College Course"
_15 Min. John F. Reilly, Iowa City. Leader of the discussion;
G. W. Snedecor, Ames, Iowa.

5. Brief report of the Committee on "Syllabus for Freshman Mathematics".

6. Business Meeting; Election of Officers:

I. F. Neff, Chairman

R. B. McClenon, Vice-Chairman

W. F. Beck, Secretary.

Minutes of the business meeting of the Iowa Section of "The Mathematical Association of America" at Cedar Falls, April 26, 1919.

The Committee of requirements for high school teachers of mathematics was not present, but the subject was discussed and a motion was made and carried instructing the chairman to appoint two others to serve with the Executive Committee as a committee on requirements and examination questions.

Motion was made by Dr. Rietz that a report of our meetings be made to the Mathematical Monthly.

Election of Officers resulted in the following being elected:

Chairman, Ira S. Condit, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Vice-Chairman, F. M. McGaw, Mount Vernon, Iowa

Secretary, L. Roy Coffin, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

A vote of thanks was extended to Teachers College for the reception given the section. Meeting adjourned.

C. W. Wester, Secretary

Report of the fifth regular meeting of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America, held in Des Moines on November 7, 1919.

A paper was presented by E. E. Watson, of Parsons College, on the subject:

"A Study of the Foundations of a Course in Freshman Mathematics." This paper represented the recommendations of the committee on Syllabus in Freshman Mathematics for Iowa Colleges, appointed at the regular meeting at Des Moines, November 2, 1917.

The meeting was then adjourned to attend the meeting of the Iowa Association of Mathematics Teachers.

L. M. Coffin, Secretary

From 1917 to 1922 inclusive a spring and fall meeting were held each year. Apparently one was with the Iowa State Teachers Association and the other with the Iowa Academy of Science.

Since 1922 the meetings have been held with the Iowa Academy of Science.

The argument for one meeting was that it is preferable to have one good, well-attended meeting per year rather than two not-so-good ones. There was a lapse during the war years.

For equivalent offices the same individual acts for both organizations. At present the chairman is the only officer acting in this dual capacity.

Governors	}	Region	{	Gouwens, Iowa	1941-43
				Wegner, Minn.	1943-45
				Parkinson, Wis.	1945-47
	}	Section	{	Thielman	1947-50
Oberg				} 1950-53	
Davis					
Holl				} 1953-56	
Oberg					

Secretaries: The first five, Neff, Beck, Wester, Coffin and Simonson held the office for only one year each; Reilly for eleven; Gouwens for twelve and the present Secretary Robertson for ten years.

PAST CHAIRMAN

A. G. Smith	1916-17	S. U. I.	R. B. McClenon	1936-37	Grinnell
G. A. Chaney	1916-17	I. S. C.	L. E. Ward	1937-38	S. U. I.
(G. A. Chaney was vice-president and became president on death of president A. G. Smith.)			E. E. Moots	1938-39	Cornell
I. F. Neff	1917-18	Drake	H. Van Engen	1939-40	I. S. T. C.
Maria Roberts	1918-19	I. S. C.	Fred Robertson	1940-41	I. S. C.
I. S. Condit	1919-20	I. S. T. C.	O. C. Kreider	1941-42	I. Falls
H. L. Rietz	1920-21	S. U. I.	N. B. Conkwright	1942-43	S. U. I.
W. J. Rusk	1921-22	Grinnell	(no meeting in 1943)		
C. W. Emmons	1922-23	Simpson	J. Butchart	1944-45	Grinnell
F. M. McGaw	1923-24	Cornell	(no meeting in 1945)		
E. R. Smith	1924-25	I. S. C.	E. N. Oberg	1945-46	
I. S. Condit	1925-26	I. S. T. C.	(E. N. Oberg, vice-chairman acted as chairman since Dr. Butchart had left state.)		
J. V. McKelvey	1926-27	I. S. C.	L. W. Swanson	1946-47	Cal.
Roscoe Woods	1926-28	S. U. I.	H. P. Thielman	1947-48	I. S. C.
C. W. Wester	1928-29	I. S. T. C.	W. M. Davis	1948-49	Cornell
E. W. Chittenden	1929-30	S. U. I.	B. E. Gillam	1949-50	I. S. C.
G. W. Snedecer	1930-31	I. S. C.	D. L. Holl	1950-51	I. S. C.
C. W. Strom	1931-32	Luther	L. E. Ernsdorff	1951-52	Loras
L. M. Coffin	1932-33	Coe	L. A. Knowler	1952-53	S. U. I.
J. F. Reilly	1933-34	S. U. I.	J. O. Chellevoid	1953-54	Wartburg
M. E. Graber	1934-35	Morning-side	J. T. Muhly	1954-55	S. U. I.
Julia T. Colpitts	1935-36	I. S. C.	Fred Brandner	1955-56	I. S. C.

Up to 1950 the secretary carried forward most of the work of the Iowa Section. In that year by-laws were adopted and the officers assumed duties as specified therein for their respective offices. In 1947 the office of Section Governor was created.

The Mathematical Association of America, Inc.

IOWA SECTION

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Name, Purposes and Membership

- Section 1. The name of this Section shall be the Iowa Section of The Mathematical Association of America, Inc.
- Section 2. The purpose of the Section shall be to promote and conserve interest in mathematics, to improve the teaching of mathematics, to provide meetings for the presentation and discussion of papers, to furnish an opportunity for fellowship to those interested in mathematics, and to carry out in this region any other purposes of The Mathematical Association of America, Inc.
- Section 3. The membership of the Section shall be the membership of The Mathematical Association of America, Inc., resident in Iowa, unless a member notifies the Secretary otherwise; and the members of The Mathematical Association of America, Inc. resident in the States adjoining Iowa, who are not members of any other Section of The Mathematical Association of America, Inc. and who notify the Secretary of the Section that they wish to be members of this Section.

ARTICLE II

Officers, Executive Committee and Duties

- Section 1. The officers of the Section shall be a chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary-Treasurer, each elected for a period of one year; provided, however, that each shall hold office until his successor has been elected and qualified.
- Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Section.
- Section 3. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Section and those of the Executive Committee. He shall have general charge and shall execute the affairs of the Section. He shall appoint all committees unless otherwise directed by the members at a meeting, and he shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- Section 4. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall

assume and perform the duties of the Chairman. In the event of the death or resignation of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman.

- Section 5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep all the books, accounts and records of the Section. He shall receive all monies paid into the Section for membership fees and dues, and all other purposes, and shall deposit such money in a bank to the account of the Section, taking a regular receipt of deposit thereof.
- Section 6. The Secretary-Treasurer shall pay all bills of the Section out of the Section funds after approval by the Chairman. All checks to be signed by the Secretary-Treasurer.
- Section 7. Subject to review of the membership, the Executive Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Section between meetings.

ARTICLE III

Meetings and Quorum

- Section 1. The annual meeting of the Section shall be held in the Spring.
- Section 2. The Section may hold special meetings, the time and place of which shall be determined by the Executive Committee, unless otherwise designated by a resolution by the members at a meeting.
- Section 3. The members present at any regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum, provided the members be notified of such meeting at least ten (10) days in advance.
- Section 4. Programs for all meetings shall be arranged by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV

Nominations and Elections

- Section 1. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall assume office upon adjournment of this meeting.
- Section 2. The officers shall be members of the Section resident in Iowa.
- Section 3. The Chairman shall not be eligible to succeed himself.
- Section 4. The officers may be nominated by a committee appointed by the Chairman, but this shall not prevent other nominations being made by any member at the time of the annual election.
- Section 5. The Executive Committee is empowered to fill any vacancy until the next following annual meeting, except as stipulated in Article II, Section 4.

ARTICLE V

Amendments

- Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote

cast by members at any meeting of the Section, subject to approval by the Board of Governors of The Mathematical Association of America, Inc.; provided, however, that such amendments have been submitted in writing by the Secretary-Treasurer to all members of the Section at least fifteen (15) days prior to the time of voting. Voting may be in person or by mail.

AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

Passed by unanimous vote April 30, 1954, at Ames, Iowa.

“That Section 2 of Article II of the By-Laws of the Iowa Section of the Mathematical Association of America be replaced by:

‘Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Section and the Sectional Governor.’”

When the Section was formed in 1916 the high school curriculum was predominantly college preparatory. Since then its aims, methods etc. have tended more and more toward terminal sequence work.

The training of the high school teachers has been along the line of applied subjects with much emphasis on methods of teaching. In order to obtain a teaching certificate today, the applicant must show that he is a specialist in methods of teaching.

In 1916 the college instructor had experience along the same lines as the high school teacher and acted the role of elder brother in many ways. Over the years his interests have tended toward the theoretical with a loss of sight into the value of the applied and of teaching.

There has been no advance in the requirements of methods of teaching in colleges. No requirement was made in 1916 and none now. Their only training in methods of teaching is remembering how their teachers taught and mimicking them. Thus the reason for a return to closer cooperation between the two groups is found.

As the interests of the two groups have widened their contacts have lessened as well as the sympathies of each group toward the other.

The financial rewards of the high school teachers has advanced much more rapidly than that of the college instructor. The prestige of each group in the Community has increased over the years.

The student leaves the high school where his instructors were trained in the science of teaching (useful material) and enters the college. He meets instructors who are interested in obtaining an advanced degree, in presenting subject matter from a theoretical view point and if he meets an instructor trained in methods of teaching that is the rare instance. No wonder he considers the going from high school to college not a mere step but a leap.

Your present secretary has tried over the years to increase contact between the high school teacher and college instructor. The

methods used were; (1) papers of special interest to high school teachers, (2) speakers and panels of special interest to them, (3) and others. The result has been a series of frustrations.

One method (not recently used) would be to schedule a second yearly meeting to be held with the State Teachers Associations. Tact would be required to accomplish this satisfactorily.

In the November meeting in 1920 in Des Moines, Prof. Rietz raised a question as to whether it is better to hold two sessions of the M.A.A.—one at the time of the State Teachers Association and one at the meeting of the Academy of Science.

Question referred to Executive Committee with instructions to report at the spring meeting.

No record of this report is found in the minutes.

In 1923 and thereafter the Iowa Section did not meet with the State Teachers Association but for years sent its members the program of Iowa Association of Mathematics Teachers with a suggestion on the value of attendance.

The value of a second meeting with the State Teachers Association is entirely in the hands of the College instructors. If they will change their fall plans to include this meeting then its success is assured.

These frustrations cannot dim the rosy look for the future.

Students from the college level have taken their time to organize a group visit to the governor.

National groups have become aware of the need for scientists and are expressing their views in national mediums of transfer of thought. A member of the Atomic Energy Commission has been especially vocal. The "hard boiled grader" has come in for his share of criticism in driving students from the study of science. Less than 25% entering freshmen complete their course in the normal time!

These and other happenings help build an awareness in the public mind about the needs and usefulness of training people for scientific work.

College administrators have given low priority to teaching but all the present discussion may lend to a revelation with a much higher priority.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT
IOWA STATE COLLEGE
AMES, IOWA