

From the Education Director

Report from the NCTM Canadian Leadership Conference
Montreal, Quebec
July 3–6, 1996

Wednesday

A wine-and-cheese event was hosted by Groupe des responsables en mathématiques au secondaire (GRMS). The social setting allowed us to meet the other representatives from across Canada (and two people from the United States).

Thursday

The day began with introductions, followed by an activity in which we were to write an ad that would identify the qualities of a leader we would hire to chair our new mathematics group. This activity was concluded through a discussion of what we did in our provincial organizations to promote leadership, and offered words of wisdom to share with new associations.

We then shared successes and concerns of our individual organizations, thereby generating a list for the entire group. We proceeded to look more closely at the *Handbook for Affiliated Groups of NCTM* and reviewed various sections. We looked specifically at the NCTM Financial Services section which dealt with underwriting for conferences, joint membership drives and grant applications. The grant application section was particularly interesting and will continue to be useful to MCATA.

Friday

The morning began with groups actually writing grant proposals on a variety of topics. The proposals were exchanged and critiqued.

The remaining part of the day was used to review the roles and responsibilities of NCTM representatives. Suggestions on how to be involved with NCTM working committees were given.

The Ontario representative who handles all purchasing of NCTM materials from the catalogue explained his almost hassle-free system.

Saturday

The day was devoted to assessment. Groups were involved in a performance-based assessment task and discussed how achievement of the task should be assessed. Although agreement was not always reached, the opportunity allowed for great discussion of ideas.

The NCTM Assessment Standards were briefly discussed.

The representative from Vermont shared with us their approach to portfolio assessment.

General Information

- Copies of newsletters from each group were shared.
- Copies of the NCTM Affiliated Group Survey Response Form were shared. (I have all the copies if anyone would like to see them.)

Overall Comment

We had a jam-packed agenda to cover in a short time. The activities were all presented in a unique and entertaining way. I am now aware of the responsibilities of an NCTM representative and the benefits of being affiliated with the NCTM. The highlight of the conference was the wealth of information I gained from colleagues around the country. Thank you for this marvelous experience.

Cindy Meagher