

MCATA Executive in Action

Klaus Puhlmann

Your MCATA executive met on September 26–27, 2003, in Edmonton. The executive consists of 21 members with representatives from the teaching profession, Alberta Learning, the University of Alberta Faculty of Education and Department of Mathematics and the Alberta Teachers' Association. Every year, new members join the executive, replacing those members who leave.

The membership must know who the executive members are so that they can contact them directly on issues related to the teaching and learning of mathematics. The executive works diligently on behalf of members, keeping a strong focus on MCATA's mission: "Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics."

As always, important issues filled the agenda. At this meeting, the executive discussed and finalized arrangements for the November 19–22, 2003, NCTM/MCATA Regional Conference in Edmonton. The executive also discussed and approved a budget for the 2003/04 school year. The key topic for the day was mathematical literacy, an initiative promoted by MCATA for the past two years.

Renata Taylor-Majeau, examination manager for Grade 3 mathematics provincial achievement test, spoke about the minister's revisioning of mathematics and how it will change the focus of Grade 3 mathematics. It is encouraging that the revisioning will include elements from the MCATA initiative on mathematical literacy. Please watch for further developments in this area and let your executive members know how you feel.

MCATA executive welcomes the new members, who are briefly introduced below. The pictures that follow depict your MCATA executive members during the September meeting.

New Executive Members

Sharon Gach has been teaching senior high mathematics for the past 20 years at Vegreville Composite High School in Vegreville and Bev Facey Community High School in Sherwood Park. Last year, she was the senior high AISI math coordinator for Elk Island Public Schools. She has just completed

her master of education degree in education administration and leadership at the University of Alberta.

A. Craig Loewen teaches courses in mathematics methods and curriculum to both the math majors and minors at the University of Lethbridge in the Faculty of Education. For the past three years, Craig has been serving as the assistant dean of Student Programs in the Faculty of Education. He is on study leave until April 2004, when he will return as the assistant dean for a second term. Craig is particularly interested in writing and developing teaching resources for problem-solving instruction and for teaching mathematics in a meaningful way. During his leave, he hopes to develop a new course, finish a few articles that have been started and begin a book on teaching problem solving in the middle grades.

Geri Lorway is a consultant and staff developer with a passion for mathematics. Her current portfolio includes staff development projects with Northern Lights School Division No. 69, St. Paul Education Regional Division No. 1, Lakeland RCSS District No. 150, Buffalo Trail Regional Division No. 28, and High Prairie School Division No. 48. She is also a staff-development consultant with Learning Network (East Central Consortium). Her professional affiliations include the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Staff Development Council, College of Alberta School Superintendents, and the Canadian Math Educators Study Group. You may have seen her at a MCATA or NCTM regional or national conference, as she loves to fill last-minute vacancies when speakers are forced to cancel.

Problem-centred learning and visual and spatial reasoning are her current research interests. She believes that understanding how the brain processes information is the key to increasing student learning, and that our focus must be working together from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Martina Metz has taught elementary math and science at the Calgary Science School for the past four years. Prior to that, she spent seven years teaching elementary and junior high at a small rural school in Hays, Alberta. Martina enjoys reading, philosophizing and spending time in outdoor pursuits.

Charlotte White is in her 12th year of teaching at St. Mary's High School in Calgary. A University of Calgary graduate, she uses her oil-industry experience in geophysics and economics to build mathematical connections in the classroom.

Charlotte has worked on several committees developing and revising the standards for the new curriculum. She is a strong proponent of cooperative

learning, the use of technology to enhance understanding and the use of alternative assessment in the classroom.

(Note: The following members are not shown: Cynthia Ballheim, president, Calgary; Robert Wong, webmaster, Edmonton; Indy Lagu, mathematics representative, Calgary.)



A. Craig Loewen, delta-K editor



l-r: Daryl M. J. Chichak, membership director, Edmonton; Len Bonifacio, vice president, publications, Edmonton; Sandra Unrau, past president, 2004 conference director, Calgary; Janis Kristjansson, director, professional development, Calgary; Charlotte White, NCTM representative, Calgary.



l-r: Carol Henderson, PEC liaison, Calgary; Deanna Shostak, Alberta Learning representative, Edmonton; David Jeary, ATA staff advisor, Calgary; Geri Lorway, director, awards and grants, Bonnyville; Anne MacQuarrie, newsletter editor, Calgary; Dale Burnett, Faculty of Education representative, Lethbridge.



l-r: Charlotte White, NCTM representative, Calgary; Martina Metz, director at large, Calgary; Renata Taylor-Majeau, examination manager for Grade 3 mathematics provincial achievement test and guest presenter, Edmonton; Carol Henderson, PEC liaison, Calgary; Deanna Shostak, Alberta Learning representative, Edmonton.

l-r: Geri Lorway, director, awards and grants, Bonnyville; Daryl M. J. Chichak, membership director, Edmonton; Elaine Manzer, vice president, professional development, Peace River; Donna Chanasyk, secretary, Edmonton; Sharon Gach, director at large, Sherwood Park; Len Bonifacio, vice president, publications, Edmonton; Sandra Unrau, past president, 2004 conference director, Calgary.



l-r: Shauna Boyce, director, publications, Spruce Grove; Doug Weisbeck, treasurer, St. Albert; Carol Henderson, PEC liaison, Calgary; Deanna Shostak, Alberta Learning representative, Edmonton; David Jeary, ATA staff advisor, Calgary; Anne MacQuarrie, newsletter editor, Calgary.



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