From the Editor

Bon Voyage!

Florence Glandfield

On behalf of MCATA, I would like to dedicate this editorial to Florence Glanfield, our past president, who is leaving Alberta to take up a teaching assignment at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Florence has made a significant contribution to mathematics education in this province. She has worked as a teacher, as a staff member of the Department of Education and as a university instructor. She has also delivered mathematics workshops all over the province, as well as nationally and internationally. Most of us got to know Florence when she was appointed the Department of Education representative to the MCATA executive. Right from the start she took a very active interest in the affairs of MCATA. She made regular contributions to this newsletter on behalf of the department.

Florence also served with me on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Mathematics 30, where her insight was most valuable.

The NCTM soon recognized Florence's talents and appointed her to serve in various committees. However, for many of us, Florence will be best remembered for her dynamic personality, her enthusiasm, her keen sense of humor and her great smile. She has that special ability to brighten everyone's day, no matter how down they might be. We also appreciated her ability to effectively keep a meeting on track.

Yes, Florence, although we will definitely miss you, we wish you the best in your new assignment, and hope we will see you at future MCATA conferences.

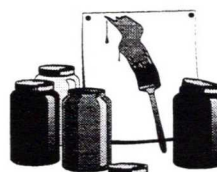Good luck!

—*Art Jorgenson*

A Poster Challenge

NCTM has assigned the title "Mathematics Month" to the month of April. During April, teachers and students are asked to put a major emphasis on mathematics and its importance in everyday living. MCATA is asking students to make posters highlighting mathematics to help promote this important subject.

Since the slogan for the Jasper conference in October 1999 is "Mathematics in Harmony with the New Millennium," we would like students to use this title for their posters.

Two interesting prizes will be given out: one at the elementary level, and one at the secondary level. Winning posters will be included in our conference program, as well as in this newsletter .

Posters should be put on an 8 ½ × 11 sheet of white paper. Posters should be sent to MCATA president, Cynthia Ballheim, 612 Lake Bonavista Drive SE, Calgary AB T2J 0M5, by January 10, 1999. We are looking forward to many entries. Please encourage participation in this contest.

—*Art Jorgensen*

Conference Corner

Upcoming . . . .

NCTM's 77th Annual Meeting
San Francisco; April 22–24, 1999
"Mathematics: Celebrating Our Progress, Continuing the Journey"

Exciting opportunities include more than 1,000 PD sessions; over 200 exhibitors—the latest NCTM publications and products; networking; sharing ideas; and great tours.

Registration forms are available from the NCTM, 1906 Association Drive, Reston VA 20191-1593, USA; phone (703) 620-9840 or re-mail annlmtg@nctmorg. www.nctmorg.

MCATA Annual Conference
Jasper Park Lodge; October 21–23, 1999
"Mathematics in Harmony with the New Millennium"

Join with other mathematics educators in beautiful Jasper, Alberta, to learn and share mathematics wisdom at the turn of the new century. Sessions include technology, Western Canadian Protocol, pure and applied math, and problem solving. If you wish to present, download a speaker proposal form from our Web site http://www.mathteachers.ab.ca. Registration forms will be sent out in 1999. For more program information, contact Sandra Unrau, phone 284-2642, e-mail sunrau@cbe.ab.ca; Cynthia Ballheim, phone 278-2991 or e-mail BallheimCJ@aol.com; or Betty Morris, phone 466-0539 or e-mail morrisb@ecs.edmonton.ab.ca. Conference room rates at Jasper Park Lodge are reasonable. Bring your whole family.

We are still looking for presenters, so we'd like to hear from you!

—Elaine Manzer

NCTM, Northwestern Regional Conference
Great Falls, Montana; March 4–6, 1999
"Under the Stars in the Big Sky"

This conference features 195 speakers from 36 states and provinces. Speakers include Glenda Lappan, Gail Burrill, Mari Muri, Dan Dolan, Frank Hughes and Don Fraser. Sessions will include topics related to elementary, middle school and high school math and science. Science and literature connections will be the major focus of many of the sessions. Exciting evening opport-unities and events include tours of Great Falls, a visit to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, NCTM-sponsored dance and much more! Plan now to join us. For more information and a complete sectional schedule, visit NCTM on the Web at http://www.nctm.org.

Past . . . .

NCTM Canadian Regional Mathematics Conference; Calgary
"Mathematics Education: Living the Challenge"

This conference, held in Calgary, October 23–24, offered a wide, exciting range of speakers to the 2,100 attendees. Unfortunately, the registration of participants caused a very slow and frustrating beginning. This glitch was the result of delays in mailing registration badges to many of those who had registered early. The conference organizers sincerely regret the inconvenience to those who were forced to wait in line, and the problems obtaining seats in the beginning sessions on Friday. Once exact numbers and division levels of registrants were realized, adjustments in types of sessions, numbers of sessions and appropriately sized session rooms were created. We thank those who understood the unforeseen delay and had the patience to see the process clarified. Those who were able to take part in the conference were treated to informative and worthwhile presentations. This was the vast majority of attendees. To those whose patience ran thin, we express our regrets. Overall, the professional development experience was extremely positive. We thank all those volunteers and attendees whose efforts made the conference a success.

—George Ditto and Bob Michie

Highlights from the President's 1997–98 Annual Report

About the Executive

We are very fortunate in this province to have a group of dedicated professionals who are willing to provide leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning, and understanding mathematics. I wish to publicly thank each person for his or her contribution to our Council. These individuals represent most areas of the province.

Operations of the Council

Meetings

Four executive meetings were held in 1997–98: September 5–6, November 1, January 16–17 and June 5–6. In addition, there were two subcommittee meetings, one of them being a teleconference.

Treasurer and Secretary

Special thanks to Doug Weisbeck and Donna Chanasyk for maintaining and facilitating up-to-date financial statements and recordings of our meetings.

Member Recognition

MCATA continued to be active in recognizing contributions of individuals through the "Alberta Mathematics Educators' Awards" and "Friends of MCATA." This year, three individuals were recognized as having made outstanding contributions to mathematics education in Alberta, through the Alberta Mathematics Educators' Awards: Lynwyn Hart, elementary teacher in Calgary; Donna Chanasyk, high school teacher in St. Albert; and Klaus Puhlmann, school superintendent in Edson. A new category was introduced this year to recognize and thank individuals for service to the Council: "Friends of MCATA."

As a "Friend of MCATA," an individual receives a certificate, a "Friend of MCATA" pin, and acknowledgment of his or her involvement with the Council in the program of the annual conference, the newsletter, and on the MCATA Web site.

The 1997 Friends of MCATA are Linda Brost, Calgary; Pat Cavanaugh, Red Deer; Leo Chauvet, Red Deer; Archie Coderre, Red Deer; Carol Davis, Red Deer; Judy Dobson, Red Deer; Doug Girvan, Red Deer; Monique Gratix, Ponoka; Ellen Hilton, Red Deer; Bill Hoppins, Edmonton; Bruce Kabaroff, Edmonton; Karen Denny, Red Deer; Graham Keogh, Red Deer; Pat Maschio, Red Deer; Cindy Meagher, Grande Prairie; Bob Mitchell, Edmonton; Allan Quinn, Red Deer; Wendy Richards, Edmonton; Jim Schlachter, Red Deer; Henry Taschuk, Edmonton; Jim Versteegden, Red Deer; and Colleen Williamson, Red Deer.

Professional Affiliations

MCATA was represented at the 1997 ATA Summer Conference (Marge Marika); the Annual Representative Assembly of the ATA (Betty Morris), the Delegate Assembly of NCTM (Florence Glanfield); the ATA Technology Project (Doug Weisbeck and Sandra Unrau); Alberta Education's Mathematics and Science Diploma Examination Calculator meeting (Cynthia Ballheim); the 1998 NCTM Canadian Leadership Conference (Mike Stone and Lorraine Taylor); and the Invitational Symposium on Professionalism vs. Managerialism (Florence Glanfield).

In 1997–98, MCATA also continued to support the Calgary Junior High Math Contest; provided two memberships to NCTM to colleagues in Sri Lanka; supported student participation in the International Mathematics Olympiad summer program; and responded to many concerns regarding the implementation of the Alberta High School Mathematics program.

This year, five of our executive members were involved in NCTM activities: Richard Kopan served on the NCTM Board of Directors; Cynthia Ballheim served on a New Publications Task Force; Betty Morris served on the Conference Services Committee; Graham Keogh served on the 2000 Annual Meeting Program committee. In addition, Florence Glanfield will be the invited Major Speaker at the 1999 Annual Meeting in San Francisco and will serve on the NCTM Assessment Addenda Task Force.

Membership

We continue to maintain a supply of NCTM resources for purchase by our members. This year, we investigated and implemented a discount program for our members. In addition, we purchased, for sale to members, MCATA travel mugs and pens. Maintaining the NCTM resources and implementing the discount program was the responsibility of our NCTM Representative, Sandra Unrau. Donna Chanasyk took responsibility for ordering and maintaining our promotional items.

Publications

Newsletter

Five regularly scheduled and two special newsletters were published in 1997–98. The two special newsletters covered two topics: the Draft Position Paper on the Use of Calculators on Provincial Assessment and implementation of the Alberta School Mathematics Curriculum. In the second newsletter, each member also received a copy of the Vision for Mathematics Education in Canada, published by the Mathematics and Science Technology Education Institute at Queen's University. All of these newsletters were managed and reviewed by Art Jorgensen, George Ditto and Dave Jeary.

delta-K

Two regularly scheduled journals were published this year. To encourage subscriptions, the journal's table of contents will now appear on the Web site so that people outside of the organization can have access to the contents of this fine journal. Klaus Puhlmann dedicates many hours to reading and reviewing every submission and responding to the authors. His efforts help us to ensure that *delta-K* remains a first-class, professional publication.

Web Site

This year MCATA executive included a Webmaster. Our Web site address is http://www.mathteachers.ab.ca/. We have been struggling with the issues surrounding information placed on the Web site. This year, following each executive meeting, a summary of the happenings were included on the Web page; a profile of the executive members; the newsletters since January; the table of contents of *delta-K*; and information about our annual conference. This is an area that we continue to explore. We thank Dick Pawloff for providing leadership in this area.

Professional Development

Annual Conference

The 1997 annual conference was held in Edmonton, November 1–2. Marge Marika, Rick Johnson, Sandra Carl Townsend, and Daryl and Pat Chichak organized this successful conference which was attended by about 300 people. We continue to be grateful for the many speakers who volunteer their time and expertise for our benefit. Without the support of MCATA membership, speakers and publishers, our conferences would not be the success that they continue to be.
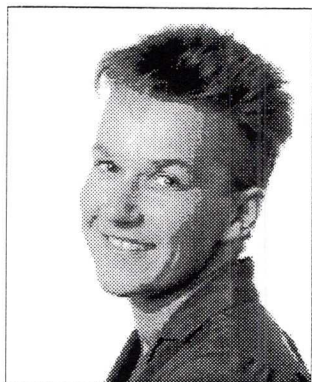
Resource Fair and Mini-Conferences

MCATA supported a Resource Fair in Edmonton and cohosted, along with Science Alberta, a mini-conference in Calgary. Thanks to Betty Morris and Sandra Unrau for organizing these two events.

Mathematics Leaders Symposium

In collaboration with Alberta Education, MCATA supported and hosted two Mathematics Leaders Symposia: one in October, the day prior to the annual conference, and one in May. These symposia continue to be well attended and seem to meet the needs of leaders in mathematics education in our province. MCATA's liaisons with Alberta Education throughout the year have been Betty Morris and Cynthia Ballheim.

—*Florence Glanfield*

Meet Your New Vice-President

Geri Lorway

Hi, I am Geri Lorway. I am serving this year as a vice president of MCATA.

My background includes teaching an assortment of class configurations from Grades 1 through 9 with a particular focus on multi-age groupings. I have just recently returned to teaching in Alberta after spending eight years in British Columbia. While teaching in B.C., I developed a passion for teaching math and science. I have worked extensively with the NCTM documents, and the Western Canadian Protocol for Mathematics. I was a part of the provincial team to deliver inservices on the new B.C. math curriculum and did extensive consulting work throughout the province. At present, I am principal of Iron River School in the Bonnyville area.

Monograph Update

A new Mathematics Council monograph will soon be going to the publisher. This monograph focuses on primary mathematics instruction, specifically on the use of manipulatives, problem solving and writing activities to help students understand mathematical concepts.

To some, writing may seem like a strange choice of activities in the math classroom. Why writing? Communication is one of the mathematical processes addressed in the Western Canadian Protocol document and, of course, writing is one major form of communication. Students need to learn how to present their ideas in a variety of forms, and the very act of writing forces students to clarify and organize their thoughts before presenting them to others. There are many different kinds of writing activities: (a) expository writing—students are asked to explain

their understanding of a concept (for example, In your own words, what is a pattern? Provide two examples and explain why they are patterns), (b) creative writing—typically used to address the affective dimensions of learning, how students feel about being in math class (for example, Describe your favorite part of math class. What parts do you find easy and what parts do you find difficult?)

There are, of course, several other forms of writing activities which are appropriate and possible, and the earlier we expose students to writing activities (that is, to learning how to communicate and how to express themselves) the better. The upcoming monograph tries to include several examples of many different kinds of writing activities. Keep your ear to the ground—it is coming soon!

—*Craig Loewen*

Membership News

New Multi-Year and Retired Membership Rates

At our annual general meeting in Calgary on Friday, October 23, 1998, a motion was passed which paved the way for a multi-year membership for regular members. The new fee schedule is as follows for a regular member:

- 1-year regular membership $30
- 2-year regular membership $53 (savings of $7)
- 3-year regular membership $75 (savings of $15)

A second motion which was passed enabled retired teachers to purchase a regular membership at a discount of $5 on a 1-year regular membership only (this discount does not apply to multi-year memberships). At the current price of a regular membership, a retired teacher can purchase a membership for $25.

—*Daryl M. J. Chichak*

Math Symposium

The 12th semi-annual symposium was held in conjunction with the Canadian Regional Math Conference on October 22nd in Calgary. This excellent symposium had 230 participants in attendance. The day was filled with speakers and panel discussions regarding a number of hot issues. Topics included the following:

- Speakers from all parts of Alberta sharing professional development activities in their districts
- Panel discussions on the new senior high curriculum
- Panel discussions on the use of technology within the math class
- Up-to-date information from Alberta Education

The day began with an excellent presentation by Rita Janes, Canadian Director of the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics. The afternoon started with an enlightening study currently being done by Nola Aitkens from University of Lethbridge on preservice teachers and mathematics.

The symposiums are held twice a year and are an excellent way to meet with other math leaders within the province to network. Watch for notice of the spring symposium to be held in Edmonton.

—Betty Morris

Retirement Can Be Exciting

I just read that four recently retired Alberta mathematics educators are members of a curling team in the Edmonton Granite Curling Club Old-Timers League. In their *first* year, they were fifth among the 24 teams.

Good luck fellows!

"Life by the Numbers"

This is a seven-part series from Texas Instruments that reveals the crucial role mathematics plays in sports, work, education, exploration, chance, virtual reality and life in general.

The names of the programs are as follows:

- Seeing Is Believing
- Patterns of Nature
- Shape of the World
- Making a Difference
- The Numbers Game
- Chances of a Lifetime
- A New Age

You can also order a free teacher reference booklet from http://www.ti.com/calc/mathlife.

—Donna Chanasyk

Encourage Parents to Get Involved

Parents of high school students are often dissuaded from getting involved in their schooling. Bad idea, say teachers and counselors. Teens need adult support too. Here are some ideas for keeping in touch.

- Take an active interest in your child's schooling all the time, not just at report-card time.
- If something is making you uneasy, call the school.
- Post your student's timetable.
- Ask to see completed homework.
- Allow teens to make up their own study schedule, but intercept phone calls and take messages during that time.
- Help your student find a place to do homework. Often the student's room has too many distractions and the kitchen or the dining room is the best place. Fill a box with all the supplies ever needed for homework.
- Provide the structure so that your student will get enough sleep and good nutrition.

JOIN NOW!

Mathematics Council of The Alberta Teachers' Association

Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics

NCTM

Affiliated with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Types of Membership

Regular

Members of the ATA as specified in the ATA bylaws. All such members are entitled to full privileges of council membership including the right to vote and to hold office.

Student

Student members of the ATA may join this council and are entitled to all benefits except the right to hold office.
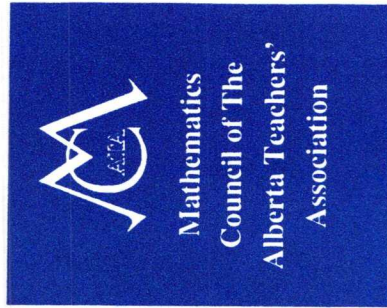
Affiliate

Persons who are not ATA members as specified in the ATA bylaws. Such members receive all benefits and services of council membership except the right to vote and hold office.

Subscription

Institutions and businesses are eligible for subscription membership. Such members receive all the benefits and services of council membership except the right to vote and hold office.

What is MCATA?

Since 1961, MCATA continues to be a professional association of mathematics teachers in Alberta. MCATA's strength is the dedication and expertise of its members. Members are MCATA.

What does MCATA do?

MCATA believes in providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics through activities such as:

- professional development experiences at the Annual Conference, at mini-conferences, and resource fairs held in various locations throughout the province;

- professional networking through the following publications: the Mathematics Council Newsletter, the journal delta-K, monographs such as Problem Solving in the Mathematics Classroom and Thirty-four Years and Counting, a historical account of MCATA;

- involvement in and supporting of provincial initiatives like the Alberta Mathematics Leaders Symposium and the Alberta Assessment Consortium;

- celebrating outstanding contribution to mathematics education in Alberta by annually awarding the Alberta Mathematics Educator Award;

- celebrating student participation in mathematics contests and leagues by providing financial support for the organization of and prizes associated with such contests and leagues;

- encouraging teachers to work together to provide professional development opportunities within their region by offering professional development grants;

- supporting and promoting initiatives of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in implementing the Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics, the Professional Teaching Standards, and the Assessment Standards for School Mathematics;

- establishing a Web site for communication among mathematics educators in Alberta; and

- participating in national and international meetings related to leadership in mathematics education.

What are the Benefits of Joining MCATA?

By joining MCATA you will:

- become a part of a professional network of mathematics educators in Alberta;

- receive reduced registration fees for conferences and mini-conferences;

- regularly receive news about mathematics education activities in Alberta through the Mathematics Council Newsletter and delta-K;

- automatically receive copies of special publications such as monographs;

- provide yourself with leadership opportunities.

* For more information on the various types of membership, refer to the back of this pamphlet.

Membership Application

The Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____

Fax: _____

e-mail: _____

School or Employer: _____

Grade level, Specialty: _____

Teaching Certificate Number: _____

Membership Fee Enclosed:

_____ Regular	$30.00
_____ 2 Year Regular	$57.00
_____ 3 Year Regular	$75.00
_____ Retired Teacher	$25.00
_____ Student	$ 5.00
_____ Affiliate	$35.00
_____ Subscription	$40.00

Make cheque payable to:
The Alberta Teachers' Association

Mail Membership Application to:
MATHEMATICS COUNCIL
the Alberta Teachers' Association
11010 - 142 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5N 2R1