Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER
The Alberta Teachers' Association

Volume 2   **Number 7**   **April 1984**

From the Editor . . .

The executive met in Edmonton on Friday night and Saturday, March 8 and 9, for the purpose of reviewing the goals and objectives of MCATA, and to establish some long-range plans.

A number of areas were discussed in detail, namely, such issues as membership, services to members, publications, and current issues.

The membership of MCATA has remained static at approximately 600 for the last number of years. It is recognized that this is only a small fraction of the teachers who teach children mathematics. It is also felt that a large proportion of the members are secondary mathematics teachers. Therefore, an objective is to try to appeal more to the primary and elementary teachers, who are often generalists. We would hope that teachers do not feel that they have to be mathematics experts to benefit from belonging to MCATA. A special effort will be made to ensure that publications and conferences will deal with some topics of special interest to these teachers.

To ensure maximum involvement in conferences, it is the plan of the executive to move the conferences among Alberta's major cities. The 1984 conference is in Red Deer; the 1985 conference in Lethbridge. The 1986 conference is a special NCTM "Name the Site" conference to be held in Edmonton, and the 1987 conference is planned for Calgary.

We recognize the fact that there are large and significant areas that are not particularly well served. In order to better meet the needs of mathematics teachers in such areas as Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, and Bonnyville, consideration is being given to the organization of mini-conferences in these areas, if the interest and demand exist.

One of the main issues discussed was that of the diploma exams. Concern was expressed regarding the effects of these exams on the teaching of mathematics. For example, will teachers see as their main goal teaching toward the exam?

A special publication committee has been set up to assess our present publications, which are primarily the Newsletter, delta-K, and the monographs, to see how well they are meeting the needs of the members of MCATA.

An area of interest, as indicated by members, is that of innovative or special things that teachers are doing in the classroom. Therefore, I urge readers to submit to Gordon Nicol, delta-K editor, or myself, a brief summary or note about special, interesting, and effective activities. I am sure that there must be many of these.

Quotable Quotes

"Probably it would be easier to learn all the languages of the world than to master all the mathematics presently known."

-- W.W. Sawyer

Numbers

When I employ statistics,
    I jumble and confuse them.
Beware! There's never safety
   In numbers when I use them.

What's New?

It has been indicated to me that there exists among our readers some specific interest in the area of Logo. For those who are interested, the following information may prove of interest.

THE NATIONAL LOGO EXCHANGE (NLX) is a monthly newsletter that provides practical ideas and tips for teachers who use the Logo computer language in their classrooms. Published from September through May and mailed first class, the National Logo Exchange acts as a forum for sharing ideas, teaching techniques, and philosophies about Logo. The NLX features articles by classroom teachers, columns by professional educators, reviews and reports of the latest versions of Logo and Logo resources, and tips for using Logo. The cost is $25 per year for the U.S.A., Canada, and Mexico, and $30 per year elsewhere. For more information, contact the National Logo Exchange, P.O. Box 5341, Charlottesville, VA. 22905.

PROBLEMS

1. Place the first six counting numbers in
   the circles so that the sum on each
   side of the triangle is 9.

   Can you do this so that the sum is 11?
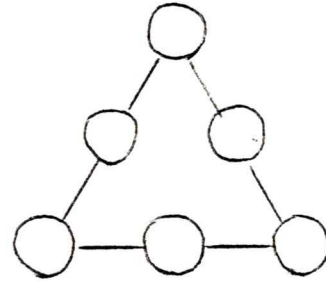
2. The pattern to the right is a base ten addition
   in which each letter represents one and only
   one digit, and each digit is represented by
   one and only one letter. Restore the digits,
   in order to discover at whom the command is
   directed.

   ```
       S O
     S C A T
   + S C A T
   -------
     5 0 3 2
   ```

3. A caterpillar travelled 3/4 total distance of the tree everyday and fell
   1/4 total distance of the tree every night. The total distance of the
   tree is 60 ft. How many days did it take the caterpillar to reach the top?

Don't Forget

Mathematics Council, ATA
ANNUAL CONVENTION
at the Red Deer College

Theme: "Mathematics for the 21st Century"

Contact: Dick Pawloff, Conference Director
          c/o Red Deer School District #104
          4747 - 53 Street
          Red Deer, Alberta   T4N 2E6

Phone: (bus.) 343-1405

News from the Southwest Regional

As usual, things are happening in the Southwest. A "Make and Take Workshop" was held on March 24. Still to come is the big "Problem Solving Barbecue" to be held on May 4. If you hail from the "big sky" country, why not plan on attending? You will likely enjoy yourself, and have a little math besides.

PROBLEM SOLVING BARBECUE   -- Friday, May 4, 1984 @ 7:00 p.m.

(Please bring salad, pickles, cheese, dessert, etc., for pot luck. Meat and drinks will be provided.)

Members $5.00; Non-members $7.50

Registrations (and appropriate fee included) to:

Joe Krywolt
1229 - 31 A Street South
Lethbridge, Alberta   T1K 3A3

San Francisco Conference

Have you thought about going? The theme for this year's conference is "Using Technology in Mathematics Education." There are over 600 sessions covering all aspects of mathematics education.

Attending a NCTM Conference can be an experience of a lifetime. A registration form for this conference is included on the last page of this issue.

MCATA Executive

It's that time of year when the slate of officers for the 1984-85 school term is to be elected. Attached is a letter from Gary Hill asking for nominations for the four elected positions.

On the executive, besides these four positions, are a number of positions, namely those of delta-K editor, Newsletter editor, and four directors, who are appointed.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or know of someone who would be prepared to serve in one of these positions, please let Gary know. These positions provide an excellent opportunity to get to know how a specialist council operates, and to make a contribution which is always welcome.

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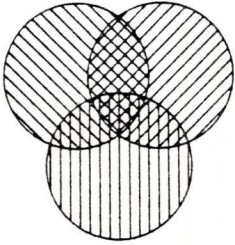
Mathematics Council
The Alberta Teachers' Association

March 9, 1984

Dear Fellow MCATA Member:

Nominations of candidates for the following offices for the 1984 - 85 school year are now being solicited: - President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

If you wish to nominate a candidate, please complete the form below and mail it by May 9, 1984, to: Gary R. Hill, 310 Laval Blvd. LETHBRIDGE   T1K 3W5.

If necessary, the election will be conducted by mail. Ballots will be sent to all members on or about May 25, 1984.

Ensure an active council by nominating people who will take an active part in making the Mathematics Council a benefit to all mathematics teachers.

This form may be duplicated if additional nomination forms are required.

> Gary Hill
> for the Election Committee
> MCATA

WE, the undersigned members of the MCATA, nominate:

NAME: _____   ADDRESS: _____

_____ as a candidate for the office of _____

in the MCATA for the year 1984-85.

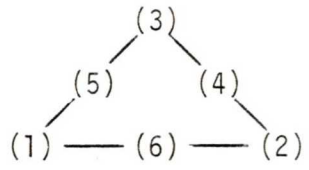Signatures and addresses of two nominators:

NAME: _____   ADDRESS: _____

NAME: _____   ADDRESS: _____

(Please include a brief resume of the nominee's qualifications for the position on the reverse side of this sheet.)

I accept this nomination: _____
(signature of nominee)

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Solutions to PROBLEMS
(from page 3):

(1)   a.

```
                (3)
           (5)      (4)
        (1) —— (6) —— (2)
```

      b.

```
                (6)
           (3)      (1)
        (2) —— (5) —— (4)
```

(2)

$$
\begin{array}{r}
2\,6 \\
2\,5\,0\,3 \\
+\,2\,5\,0\,3 \\
\hline
5\,0\,3\,2
\end{array}
$$
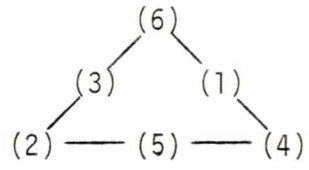
(3)   2 days

EASTER GREETINGS

RESUME OF NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATIONS:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

62D ANNUAL MEETING

25-28 APRIL, 1984

San Francisco, California

INFORMATION FOR NAME BADGE:

Name _____

Location _____

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FEES (select one from the following categories):

- Individual NCTM/MAA Member registration at $35.00 (Member No. _____ Exp. date _____)

- Registration including New Membership or Membership Renewal:

  With two journal subscriptions: -OR- With one journal subscription (check one):
  (*Arithmetic Teacher* and *Mathematics Teacher*) ☐ *Arithmetic Teacher* or ☐ *Mathematics Teacher*
  U.S. Addresses—$75.00 U.S. Addresses—$65.00
  Outside U.S.—$82.50 Outside U.S.—$70.00

- Nonmember registration at $60.00

- Full-time student registration at $17.50

- Elementary School—with institutional membership including a subscription to the *Arithmetic Teacher* (No. _____ Exp. date _____).
  Advance registration only at $35.00 per registration. (Please photocopy and use a separate form for each person registering.)

- Organizations and institutions with institutional membership including a subscription to the *Mathematics Teacher* (No. _____ Exp. date _____).
  Advance registration only at $35.00. (Restricted to one registrant.)

REGISTRATION (List applicable fee) .... $ _____

WORKSHOPS/WORKSESSIONS

Indicate below the identifying numbers from the program for each workshop or worksession you wish to attend.
Advance registration is limited to five workshop or worksession tickets a person,
one of which may be for a computer workshop.

1st choice of workshops
or worksessions

Computer workshop # _____

Alternate computer workshops # _____ # _____ # _____

Other workshops/worksessions

_____ # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____

Alternate workshops/worksessions

_____ # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____

_____ (No. of workshops) @ $3 .... (maximum of $15) $ _____

FRIDAY NCTM BANQUET ......(No. of persons) _____ @ $28 .... $ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED .... $ _____

Return this form with check in U.S. dollars or credit card information to:

NCTM, 1906 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091

☐ My check is enclosed ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Credit Card No. _____ Card Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX

CK # _____ CHG _____ AMT $_____ REG $_____ MEMB $_____ W/S $_____ MEALS $_____

CM # _____ AMT $_____ Ref. Date _____ ACCT. # _____ AMT $_____

Advance registration should be mailed to the NCTM no later than 30 March 1984 to allow time for processing. Any person requesting a refund must cancel in writing to the NCTM. Cancellations received at the NCTM after 24 April 1984 will not be eligible for refunds.

Name _____
(Please print or type)

Mailing Address _____

_____
(ZIP or Postal Code)