

**CANADIAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY  
SOCIÉTÉ MATHÉMATIQUE DU CANADA**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Room A-1043, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Saturday June 6, 2009

The meeting opened at 12:48 p.m. with 38 members in attendance.

**1. Adoption of the agenda.**

The agenda was accepted as circulated.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

**G-09-1 MOTION (Graham Wright/Yvan Saint-Aubin)**

**That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on June 3, 2008 be accepted.**

*Carried Unanimously*

**3. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising which would not be dealt with during the meeting.

**4. President and Advancement of Mathematics Committee Report.**

Six Canadian delegates attended the KMS meeting in Korea in October 2008. Lau reported on the Canada/Korea session taking place at this 2009 Summer Meeting. Unfortunately, only three of the six invited Korean delegates are attending this meeting.

Lau noted that representatives have been identified in almost all Canadian mathematics departments for the membership campaign which is currently underway. These representatives have been supplied with a package of materials from the CMS, including a list of CMS members in their department. To date, about 40 new memberships have resulted from this campaign. In some departments, such as the University of Windsor, 100% of department members are now CMS members.

Yvan Saint-Aubin reported on the bid to host ICM 2014 in Canada. An earlier bid to host ICM 2010 had been unsuccessful. The bid for ICM 2014 proposed that the ICM take place in Montréal. The first day of the site visit focused on the scientific aspects of the proposal and was very successful. The second day dealt more with financial aspects, and this was much less positive, due to the high registration fees and relatively low levels of government financial support. Korea was ultimately selected as the host for ICM 2014, which will take place in Seoul.

Lau noted that Peter Taylor, Chair of the Education Committee and one of the Co-chairs of the Forum, would report on the 2009 Mathematics Education Forum later in the meeting.

Graham Wright has served for 30 years as Executive Director. Lau was pleased to report that the search

for a new Executive Director and Secretary has been completed. The Board of Directors has appointed Johan Rudnick as the CMS Executive Director and Secretary, effective July 15, 2009. To ensure a smooth transition, Wright has submitted a proposal whereby he would continue as the Executive Director until July 14, 2009 and as an Executive Consultant, on about a half-time basis, from July 15, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

Lau reported that the Board of Directors has passed a motion thanking Graham Wright for his superb service to Society over the past 30 years. The Board has also thanked Joseph Khoury for his service as Associate Executive Director since July 1, 2008.

## 5. 2009 Election.

The 2009 Tellers' Report had been circulated. Wright explained that board members serve for 4 years, and Vice Presidents for two years. The nominees for the positions on the Executive Committee were acclaimed, and Board members for the various regions were elected from the slate of nominees.

### G-09-2 MOTION (Nominating Committee)

**That the CMS Tellers' Report for the 2009 Election of Officers and Directors be accepted.**

*Carried Unanimously*

## 6. Treasurer's Report.

Lau noted that the Treasurer, David Rodgers, was unable to attend this meeting. David Rodgers underwent major heart surgery at the end of 2008, his brother had died recently, and David had to remain in California to settle matters related to the estate. The Board has expressed its condolences to David Rodgers.

Lau asked Wright to present the Treasurer's Report. Wright reported that although the CMS fund raising activities did not do quite as well as had been projected for 2008, there were a number of successes which will provide additional support for CMS educational activities going forward. The May issue of the CMS Notes included a list of the non-anonymous donations for 2008.

For almost three years now, and particularly in 2008, the focus has been on corporations and foundations – Canadian, American with Canadian offices, and American who claim to donate in Canada – and there does not appear to be much traction. Corporations in Canada seem to believe that mathematics should be funded by government. The advice received to date suggests that if there is a path, it is through influential, wealthy individuals in Canada who are interested in mathematics or mathematics education. This approach is slower, but the advice from experts is that building these types of relationships is the better path for the CMS in the longer run.

In December 2008, the Executive discussed the possibility that the Advancement of Mathematics Committee Sub-committee on Fund Raising be expanded to include individuals, not necessarily CMS members, who are in a position to help with CMS fund raising initiatives. The Nominating Committee has been asked to consider this proposal.

Wright drew attention to the Treasurer's Report and Audited Statement for the year 2008. The CMS operating deficit for 2008 is \$24,399, much less than the \$54,586 deficit in the 2008 Budget approved by the Board of Directors, and dramatically reduced from the year-end projection of \$106,106 in the

fall of 2008.

This was made possible by a very successful Winter Meeting (480 delegates), adjustments in expenses from the 2008 Summer Meeting, significantly increased end-of-year donations by CMS members, several unanticipated donations from the public and private sectors, and still lower than projected administrative and committee costs.

While operating deficits are never cause for celebration, a great deal of effort by many people went into managing 2008 CMS resources and risk to yield a reasonable outcome in very bad times, often involving moving targets. The whole CMS organization and its membership are to be commended.

The CMS office has had to move, resulting in a tripling of office rent. The 2009 Operations Fund Budget projects a deficit of \$61,208. The good news is that 2009 subscription money received is much higher than originally projected due to the lower Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar (about \$0.80, during the months when most of the subscription revenue is received).

CJM and CMB together represent the bulk of CMS subscription revenue, with smaller (but not insignificant) revenues from CRUX with MAYHEM, the various book series, and membership fees. Foreign exchange revenue should more than offset the projected deficit for 2009. There is concern that library cutbacks in the U.S. will negatively impact future subscription revenues.

### **6.1. Audited Statement.**

#### **G-09-3 MOTION (Finance Committee)**

**That the Audited Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2008 be accepted.**

### **6.2. Treasurer's Financial Report.**

The audited statements are not included in the annual report because that would require the annual report to be audited, which would increase expenses. The figures in the Treasurer's Report match those in the audited statements.

#### **G-09-4 MOTION (Finance Committee)**

**That the Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2008 be accepted.**

*Carried Unanimously*

### **6.3. Appointment of auditors.**

The 2009 audit fee is estimated to be \$14,125. The Finance Committee considers that the fee is very fair for the quality of the work being done.

**G-09-5 MOTION (Finance Committee)**

**That the firm of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton be appointed as auditors for the financial year ending December 31, 2009.**

**7. Executive Director and Secretary's Report.**

Wright thanked the Nominating Committee for its work in preparing for the CMS elections, and thanked those who stood for election.

Wright reported on the move of the Executive Office. The office is now located in a building owned by the Canadian Pharmacists Association. Most of the physical work for the move of the Executive Office started on December 15, 2008 and was completed by December 22, 2008, just before the Office closed for the holidays.

He congratulated all of the staff on accomplishing a major move with very little down time and in such a way that the move was almost transparent to members, subscribers and others. He also thanked Joseph Khoury for all his help with the move.

The Office is currently operating with one less position, the Administrative Assistant position occupied previously by Rachel Cunningham, who resigned at the end of December. The Administrative Assistant's duties have been re-assigned among the existing staff members. A review of this arrangement will take place in the summer.

Wright commented that the Board of Directors has approved a Reciprocity Agreement with the Pakistan Mathematical Society (PakMS).

Almost all meeting sites through to summer 2012 have been selected.

Wright noted that the 2009 CMS Competitions Awards Banquet will be combined with the Banquet of the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing, University of Waterloo and will take place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday June 11, 2009.

Wright thanked Memorial University of Newfoundland, and especially the Meeting Directors David Pike and Danny Dyer for putting on a very successful meeting. On behalf of the CMS, he also thanked Dr. H.E.A. Campbell for his support for this meeting.

Wright wished to thank all of the colleagues he had worked with over the past 30 years, with many having become good friends as well as colleagues. He was very appreciative of the help received from Anthony Lau, Thomas Salisbury, David Rodgers, and Joseph Khoury during the extension of his mandate. He welcomed Johan Rudnick as the new Executive Director and looked forward to working with him to ensure a smooth transition.

**8. 2008 Annual Report to the Members.**

Law requires that the Society produce and approve an annual report. Copies were available for review.

**G-09-6 MOTION (Board of Directors)**

**That the 2008 Annual Report to the Members be accepted.**

*Carried Unanimously*

## 9. Reports from Committees.

### **Advancement of Mathematics:**

Matters pertaining to the Advancement of Mathematics Committee have already been reported upon by the President.

### **Bilingualism**

Khoury noted that the Bilingualism Committee is the newest of the CMS committees. It has assisted in various ways, such as providing French translations for CMO and APMO questions and for News Releases, as has helped with some aspects of CMS web pages.

### **Education:**

Peter Taylor noted that the Education Committee's activities have grown tremendously over the the years. With its sub-committees, it is involved in making grants for math camps, provincial competitions and science fairs, it is involved in selecting recipients for the two education prizes and organizes education sessions at CMS meetings.

The CMS is a major supporter of the Canadian Math Education Forum (CMEF). First held in Québec City in 1995, the fourth CMEF took place in Vancouver at the start of May. It included broad representation, with 50 teachers, 70 mathematicians and math education researchers, about 30 graduate students, as well as ministry representatives, and publishers. A unique feature of the meeting was the way ideas from so many levels were able to join together. These Fora are likely to continue every four years or so. One of the challenges has been to find funding to bring teachers to the meeting.

### **Endowment Grants:**

Lau mentioned, on behalf of Hassan Safouhi, that because of limited funds, there will be no Endowment Grants competition in 2009.

### **Finance:**

Kenneth Davidson mentioned that the Finance Committee was pleased that the 2008 year-end deficit was much less than projected, and that the lower Canadian dollar has reduced the estimated deficit for 2009.

Tom Salisbury has chaired an ad hoc committee which reported on ways to mitigate the risks associated with fluctuating exchange rates. The measures suggested are now being considered by the Finance Committee.

### **International Affairs:**

Lau mentioned, on behalf of Niky Kamran, that the International Affairs Committee is in the process of nominating an individual from Canada to be President of the IMU.

### **Invested Funds:**

Salisbury, on behalf of David Bates, commented that the committee continues to use a passive management style, but is considering rebalancing the portfolio.

While the committee was unable to release sufficient funds to hold an Endowment Grant competition this year, by putting two years of revenue together, it may be possible to hold a competition in 2010.

### **Mathematical Competitions:**

Neal Madras stated that all Canadian team members at the 2008 IMO won medals. The 2009 IMO will take place in Bremen, Germany in July. Four of the six team members are returning. Three team members are from Calgary, one is from BC, and two are from Ontario. IMO team training will take place at BIRS.

The National Math Camp is moving to the University of Windsor this year. The Board has approved Terms of Reference for the CMO Qualifying Repêchage. The top 50 students from the COMC are invited to write the CMO. The repêchage takes place in January, with problems being posted on line. It results in a further 30 students being invited to write the CMO.

### **Nominating:**

Lau noted, on behalf of Richard Kane, that the main work of the Nominating Committee had been for the 2009 Election of Officers and Directors. Salisbury mentioned that the committee is currently working to fill committee positions for 2010. It would be appreciated if members could suggest colleagues who might be willing to serve on CMS committees.

### **Publications:**

Matthias Neufang commented that the chief mandate of Publications Committee is to oversee the publications of the Society. He was happy to report that there are 5 new Associate Editors on the CJM/CMB Editorial Board, bringing the number of members to 14. The committee is concerned about possible effects of library cuts to journal subscriptions. Robert McCann's proposal to diversify the journal offerings of the CMS is being considered. Possibilities include the creation of an elite journal, or a journal for papers of greater length. Another idea is to section the current journals by topic.

### **Research:**

Ed Bierstone reported that the Research Committee has two main tasks. One is to choose winners for the Society's research prizes.

The other task is to assist the directors of CMS meetings with the scientific programs for their meetings. The plenary speakers and special sessions for the winter 2009 and summer 2010 meetings have been approved by the committee. Plans for the Winter 2010 meeting in Vancouver are well underway, with 5 plenary choices already approved. So far, 8 core sessions have been proposed, and another 7 or 8 are likely to be added.

Scientific Directors for the 2011 summer meeting in Alberta have not yet been chosen. It will be the first meeting whose directors will be chosen based upon the new CMS model, with one director from the host institution, and a second scientific director not necessarily from the host institution.

The location for the Winter 2011 has not yet been finalized. The 2012 summer meeting will likely take place at the University of Regina.

### **Student:**

Iva Halacheva noted that the 16th Canadian Undergraduate Mathematics Conference will place take in July at Carleton University. The student newsletter continues to be published and circulated to departments. New web technologies, such as a blog and web forums are being used and new KaBoL links are now announced by Twitter. A Student Committee logo competition is planned. A student workshop, on applying for scholarships, is being held at this meeting. There is also a student social at this meeting.

### **Math Camps:**

Harley Weston stated that there is one new math camp this year - a second camp in Québec. The CMS has entered into an agreement with the Acturial Foundation of Canada which includes a pilot project for three Math Camps in the maritimes. Students will be invited, after the camp, to work on a challenge problem in actuarial science, and will have two weeks to work on it before submitting their solutions. The Acturial Foundation will send a representative to present an award at the school of winning students. If this pilot project is successful, it may be extended across the country.

## **10. Other Business.**

Lau encouraged members to nominate their colleagues for CMS prizes.

He thanked the outgoing Past President, Tom Salisbury, the outgoing Vice Presidents as well outgoing Board members for all their service to the CMS.

## **11. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

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Anthony Lau  
President

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Graham P. Wright  
Secretary

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Alan Kelm  
Recording Secretary