

Spring 2007 Newsletter

I am glad to report that mathematics education is alive and well in northwest Tennessee! The members of our organization have been working toward improving education for our students by participating in events sponsored by the Northwest Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association. Since the joint meeting of TMTA and MT²nw, we have held two events.

The first one was the MathMeet that was held on November 18 in Brownville at Haywood County High. The Northwest Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association sends out a huge thank you to Eddie Keel for making the MathMeet 2006 so successful. However, Eddie would not be able to put on this event without the assistance of the students in his very active math club as well as some of the local educators; we want to thank these individuals as well.

As in other years, local merchants and individuals in the Haywood County area donated plenty of food for the event. The students enjoyed the day – particularly the Jeopardy Contest during which each school cheers on its team.

After the Jeopardy Contest, an awards ceremony is always held that recognizes the top ten students in each contest as well as the winning Jeopardy team. MT²nw was able to provide prizes for all the first place winners in the contests. Thanks to Texas Instruments' generous donation, we awarded some students with a graphing calculator. Other winners received checks for \$20 from the organization.

The tessellation poster contest is always held at MathMeet. Very few students participate in this. I encourage every teacher that takes a group of students to this event next fall to enter some students in the tessellation poster contest. Eddie Keel will provide you with the rules for this contest when he sends out the information about MathMeet. The next MathMeet will be on November 10, 2007 at Haywood County High School in Brownsville.

The second event was the Spring Meeting that was held at Jackson Christian School in Jackson on February 24, 2007. Fifty-eight teachers attended the all day meeting; this number is up significantly from our attendance in 2006. The fourteen sessions were well received by the participants. In addition, we had two vendors that set up displays. We had four vendors who sent door prizes as well. We also had several little items to give away to the participants.

At our Spring Meeting, the membership decided to institute a grant program for our teachers who are members of MT²nw. Board member Paige Neill is developing a grant proposal form for the organization. The board will meet sometime this spring to go over the details of the grant. When we have ironed out all the details of the application, you will be notified by email. We should be able to begin taking applications this spring. The grants applications will be presented for approval to the membership at our fall meeting.

The Fall Mathematics Workshop sponsored by MT²nw will return to The University of Tennessee at Martin this year. Because we hosted the annual meeting of TMTA last fall, we did not hold the Fall Mathematics Workshop. This year's meeting will be on Saturday, September 15. In order for this event to be successful, we need speakers. When Theresa Rushing sends out a message requesting speakers, please consider either speaking and ask another teachers to speak.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UTM has chosen a student to be the recipient of the Austin/Boren Award. The student will receive the award at the Fall Mathematics Workshop.

Here are the minutes from the November 18 meeting of MT²nw:

I. Meeting called to order by Theresa Rushing.

II. MINUTES & REPORTS

Jane Mitchell moved approval of minutes, seconded and approved. The treasurer's report was given. George Moss moved approval of report, seconded and approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Meeting – February 24, 2007 at Jackson Christian School in Jackson, TN
Speakers needed – forms need to be returned by February 1, 2007

Theresa Rushing – Program Chair

Melanie Brown – Site Chair

Fall Math Workshop at UT Martin – September 15, 2007

Program Chair – Theresa Rushing

MathCount Competition – February 3, 2007 at UT Martin

Site Chair – Desiree' McCullough

Middle School Math Competition – March 20, 2007 at UT Martin

Site Chair – Desiree' McCullough

High School Math Competition – April 2007 – various venues

IV. OLD BUSINESS

The constitutional amendment to address the need for a Technical Representative has not been developed at this time. The need still exists for this amendment.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made to award cash prizes of \$20 for first place winners of MathMeet contests that do not get calculators. Motion carried.

Laura Luna requested sponsorship for her newly formed FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition

of Science and Technology) Robotics team. The team will purchase a “Kit of Parts” and have six weeks to build and ship a competition style robot to a chosen regional competition site. The team has received a \$10,000 grant from NASA – Marshall Space Flight Center, but they are in need of further funding. Eddie Keel made a motion that MT² – NW sponsor the team at the \$500 level for one year, seconded by Jane Mitchell, and motion carried.

Motion was made to change the date of MathMeet from the weekend before

Thanksgiving to two weekends before Thanksgiving. This change will serve only the 2007 competition year and will be reevaluated at the November meeting.
Motion seconded and carried.

VI. Next meeting will be February 24, 2007 at the Spring Meeting in Jackson, TN

VII. Motion made to adjourn, seconded, and carried.