

FEBRUARY 2015

MU ALPHA THETA NEWSLETTER

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NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

A new year and a fresh semester have arrived! I hope you all had a wonderful fall semester and a restful winter break. The semester is filled with opportunities to make your Mu Alpha Theta chapter stronger and to recognize your outstanding students and sponsors. I hope you have participated in both free contests sponsored by Mu Alpha Theta: Log 1 and Rocket City. These contests are currently ongoing and all problems are written by current Mu Alpha Theta students. I am very proud of the work that these students and sponsors have put forth to create interesting, fun, and challenging tests. If your students are especially creative, the Mathematical Minutes Video Contest deadline is February 28. This is definitely something you should look into.

It is also time to plan to attend the 2015 National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, which will be held July 19-24. Early bird registration is due by April 1 and the final registration deadline is May 15. Grants are available for schools that have never attended the National Convention and Need-Based Scholarships are also available for deserving students. For sponsors with 25 or more years of service, the new Silver Sponsor Award allows you to attend for free!

Mu Alpha Theta has a host of grants, awards, and scholarships available for your students and sponsors, including Summer Grants, Chapter Grants, Classroom Teacher Grants. Don't let the deadlines for these pass by!

The Governing Council has also just approved our new Chapter Competition Grants. These will provide up to \$500 to financially support your participation in a math contest in which your members compete.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your national president for the past two years. I look forward to serving as past-president next year. I know that your next president, Betty Hood, will do an outstanding job. I have known her for many years and have served twice with her on the Mu Alpha Theta Governing Council. She is one of the hardest working people I have ever met.

I wish you all a successful end of the academic year and best wishes for a pleasant and productive summer.



Mu Alpha Theta President

NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS *from Kay Weiss*

It has been a strange new year so far here at Mu Alpha Theta's National Office. As you know from our recent email, our website which is hosted by Network Solutions was hacked and our homepage stolen. What this currently means is that when you click on our homepage, you see how it looked on January 17, when it was moved from the Network Solution server. We cannot update the page until we rectify this situation. All other pages are live and still controlled by us. We are updating these regularly. When you click on a link on the homepage, it continues to connect to our updated pages back at Network Solutions. Why anyone would do this is beyond understanding. If you log into our database with your chapter ID and password, you end up on our firewalled, secure server here on campus. If you go from there to enter a credit card number, you are transferred to another ultra-secure server run by USAepay, a company like PayPal. The experts we have consulted do not think there is a way for the hackers to get anyone's private information or credit card numbers from our system. Also, we keep no private information. The only phone number or emails we keep are what has been entered by our teachers. Most of these are the school numbers or emails at the school. We never have a copy of any credit card number, nor are they stored or entered into our database.

We have spent countless hours on this issue since January. I have personally worked with numerous "experts", and am still trying to resolve this issue so we can get a website free of these outside hackers. Within the next few months, we will totally rebuild our website in more modern code and with a new look. Once launched it should be a big improvement, more secure, and easier to use.

If you feel uncomfortable using the website for now, feel free to email or fax orders to us. Email is preferred for lists of new members and their year of graduation. If you have a purchase order number or check number to pay for the order, just include that in the email. You are welcome to email orders and call with a credit card, if you wish.

Please make note of our new Regional Sponsor Awards. We hope to celebrate the accomplishments of an outstanding sponsor from each of our four regions. Don't be shy submitting an application for an outstanding sponsor of a Mu Alpha Theta chapter or even nominating yourself. The award comes with \$1,000 cash award for the teacher and \$1,000 cash award to be used by the chapter for activities.

Read through the newsletter carefully. We offer much for your chapters and your members. Remind students that money is available for Summer Grants. Don't forget Scholarship and Award application due dates. Let us serve you and your students!!

Remember to order your honor cords in time to arrive before you need them. If you are submitting an order around your spring break, you might mention this to us in your order or email so we don't send a package before you are back at school.

Thank you for all you do for the students. I will let you know when all is secure on our website or you will know when you see the updated site launched.

UPCOMING DATES

Feb 1-28: Log1 Contest Round 3

Feb 9-20: RCML Round 2

Feb 28: Math Minutes Contest
Deadline

March 1: Postmark Deadline for
Kalin Award application
Andree Award application
Rubin Award application
Scholarships application

March 9-20: RCML Round 3

March 10: Chapter Vote for
Article VII

March 15: *Regional Sponsor
of the Year Award*

SALT LAKE CITY NATIONAL CONVENTION



The 45th Annual Mu Alpha Theta National Convention will be held July 19-24, 2015 in Salt Lake City at the University of Utah. The convention will include an outing to Snowbird.

Before April 1: \$500 Early Registration
After April 1: \$550 Regular Registration

Sponsors requesting single rooms will need to pay an additional \$270. All registration must be postmarked **by May 15th**. Visit www.mualphatheta.org > National Convention for more information!

STUDY BUDDY CONVENTION GRANT

Study Buddy is proud to announce the fifth annual Mu Alpha Theta Convention Grant. NSTEP will provide up to \$2,000 to cover costs to attend the Mu Alpha Theta National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT for three students and their teacher sponsor from one school. All chapters participating in Study Buddy are eligible to compete for this grant. Schools are encouraged to sign up for Study Buddy at any point during the school year. Please inform NSTEP of your interest in attending under the Convention Grant in order to be considered. NSTEP welcomes inquiries from both teachers and students.

The winning school will be invited by Study Buddy to attend the National Convention on the grant by March 1st.

Please email gmartin@studybuddyhelp.org with questions about how you can integrate Study Buddy into your classroom!

NEED-BASED CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIPS

Mu Alpha Theta will award up to 50 Need-Based Convention Scholarships for this summer's convention. The sponsor of each high school chapter attending the National Convention may nominate up to two Mu Alpha Theta members for this scholarship. Each award will provide free registration for a member in good standing and up to \$300 of the student's travel expenses to be reimbursed after arriving in Salt Lake City. The intent of the Need-Based Convention Scholarship is to allow members with financial need the opportunity to attend a National Convention with their chapter.

new! REGIONAL SPONSOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Mu Alpha Theta established this award to honor outstanding sponsors of Mu Alpha Theta chapters which may not have attended the National Convention. Each year the Regional Sponsor of the Year Award will honor a current sponsor from each region who has labored tirelessly and made significant contributions to Mu Alpha Theta. To be nominated, the individual must have served as a Mu Alpha Theta sponsor for at least five years, they may not currently be a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Governing Council.

The award includes a \$1,000 cash award to the winner from each region and an award of \$1,000 to the sponsor's chapter.

The Regional Governors will comprise the selection committee to choose the winners of the awards. Their decision will be announced no later than April 15 and an article about the winners will appear in the May Mu Alpha Theta newsletter.

Sponsors may win at most one of the following in the same calendar year:

- a) A Regional Sponsor of the Year Award
- b) The Sister Scholastica Award
- c) The Huneke Award

No sponsor may win the Regional Sponsor of the Year Award more than once in a 10 year period.

How To Nominate A Sponsor

Nominations should be made by a coworker, administrator, or other Mu Alpha Theta sponsor. Sponsors may also self-nominate. Please fill out the Nomination Form and include the Nominee Information Form. The Nominee Information Form should be filled out by the person being nominated. Both forms should be sent together with three recommendation letters, at most one from a current student. Other letters may be from co-workers, administrators, former students, or Mu Alpha Theta colleagues.

All nomination materials must be postmarked no later than **March 15th** and mailed to:

**Mu Alpha Theta
Regional Sponsor of the Year Award
c/o University of Oklahoma
3200 Marshall Ave, Suite 190
Norman, OK 73019**

new grant! CHAPTER COMPETITION GRANT

Mu Alpha Theta is offering grants of up to \$500 per active chapter to help pay entrance fees or expenses associated with a math competition in which the chapter members wish to compete. The grant may not be used for the Mu Alpha Theta National Convention. Funds are available on a first come/first serve basis until our budget for these grants is depleted. There is no deadline for the application, but once funds are gone, further grants will not be possible for the remainder of that fiscal year. Please, do not hesitate to contact the National Office for additional information about this exciting new grant opportunity!

CHAPTER VOTE NEEDED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Below you will find a new article to be added to our National Constitution. State Mu Alpha Theta organizations serve our members with regional and state math competitions. While our *Sponsor's Handbook* has always listed guidelines for states forming these organizations, the National Constitution has had no rules or regulations legally establishing the relationship between these organizations and the National Mu Alpha Theta. At this time, the Governing Council feels it is appropriate to add such rules to establish that these organizations are financially independent of the National Mu Alpha Theta. They will also ensure the National Office has yearly contact with each organization.

Each active chapter of Mu Alpha Theta has one vote. Please read the article below and send a **FOR** or **AGAINST** vote by email to matheta@ou.edu by **March 10th**. Please include the name of your school, city and state, and your chapter ID number with your vote.

For questions or comments about the article, please email Kay Weiss at matheta@ou.edu.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLE TO BE ADDED TO OUR NATIONAL CONSTITUTION:

Article VII – State/Regional Affiliates

- (1) Local chapters may organize state or regional affiliates in order to sponsor events for chapter members and schools at a state or regional level.
- (2) Any state or regional affiliate must receive permission to use the Mu Alpha Theta name and logo prior to doing so. A written application form must be submitted and approved by the Governing Council to obtain this permission. The application should include the affiliate's Constitution and/or by-laws.
- (3) No state or regional affiliate shall, in any way, supersede local chapter authority as delegated and defined in this Constitution.
- (4) Any state or regional affiliate shall prepare by-laws or a Constitution that conforms to all official documents prepared by the National Mu Alpha Theta.
- (5) Any state or regional affiliate which charges dues for student members is responsible for ensuring that they are current members of Mu Alpha Theta in a Mu Alpha Theta chapter that is active as defined by this Constitution.
- (6) Any state or regional affiliate that collects funds from members or others during the year must keep accurate financial records, available for review by the public. Where appropriate, the affiliate should have a government tax identification number, provide proper tax forms to anyone paid more than \$600 during the year, and file all appropriate tax forms with the IRS, including a yearly 990 tax form.
- (7) Affiliate funds should be used to support state or regional activities in line with the mission of Mu Alpha Theta, provide student or chapter scholarships or grants, and not be used to enrich any individual or specific school. Affiliates may have paid employees that serve the organization, however.
- (8) Mu Alpha Theta will not provide any financial oversight to any affiliate and will not be legally responsible for any activities or liabilities incurred.
- (9) Any state or regional affiliate shall provide a yearly report to the Governing Council to be presented at the July meeting, including any changes to their Constitution or by-laws. The report shall be submitted to the National Office or to their Regional Governor approximately two weeks prior to the July meeting.
- (10) Affiliates shall designate a person within their organization as a liaison with the National Office.
- (11) The Governing Council reserves the right to withdraw an affiliate's approval to use the Mu Alpha Theta name or logo should it violate any of these rules, or state or federal law.

STUDENTS

MESSAGE FROM YOUR STUDENT DELEGATE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL STUDENT DELEGATE OFFICERS:

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Hello everybody :)

As a freshman entering Mu Alpha Theta, I never thought this year would come but alas, 2015 is here. While this does mean that mine and many others' Mu Alpha Theta careers will be coming to a close, we still have an entire season ahead! Like every year, we will be topping it off with the long-awaited National Convention in the summer.

This July, the National Convention will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, a location it has never been held in before. (The first convention took place in 1970, that's before air hockey!) We have the epic Snowbird excursion to look forward to an exhilarating combination of various mountain-related activities, including the Alpine Slider and Mountain Coaster. I'm looking forward to beautiful scenery, wonderful weather, a new adventure, and most of all, seeing all of your faces again.

While I do encourage you to try your best in competing, always remember to make as many friends as you can and cherish your time with them. The convention ends, but the memories last a lifetime. Math brings us together, but our friendships will keep us together.

I really hope to see you out there this summer! The two National Conventions I attended were the best two weeks of my life. Feel free to come join our Student Delegate meetings, where we discuss ideas for improving the organization and the convention. Each school in attendance can send one or two delegates to officially represent their school, although all are welcome to participate.

Before wrapping this up, I would like to remind my fellows seniors and two-year college students that Mu Alpha Theta offers multiple four-figure

\$cholar\$hip\$. Each chapter can submit up to two applications, so give it your best! Details are available on mualphatheta.org.

I also encourage your school to participate in Mathematical Minutes, a fun contest where members create entertaining and educational math videos. Information and previous entries can also be found on the national website. If you haven't seen 2014's winner "The Love Imaginary," fix that!

Once again, if you have any ideas, comments, questions, or concerns, you can fill out a dispute form and leave it in the collection box. (Just kidding, email me at nicpena@rocketmail.com!)

2015 is here, along with the best MAΘ season yet. :D
See you real soon!

Nicolas Peña
Student Delegate President

For more information about the Mu Alpha Theta Student Delegate Assembly, see the About Us section of our website and click on Officers > Student Delegate Officers.

MATH MINUTES VIDEO CONTEST

The Mathematical Minutes Video Contest wants you to create educational and entertaining math videos. Get together with a few friends from your chapter, pick a math topic, and create a fun, informative, two to five minute video!

All submissions are **due by February 28, 2015 at midnight EST**. Complete the submission form found online and email the form to the National Office at matheta@ou.edu.

Schools are allowed no more than three submissions. Only the top submission per school is eligible for prize awards. Eight videos will be chosen by March 31, 2015 for the final round of judging. Chapters will vote to rank the top eight videos. Up to \$3,000 will be available to be split amongst the entries by quality. Final award amounts will be determined by these votes, along with input from the Governing Council.

The Salt Lake City National Convention plans to award INTERSCHOOL points for any qualified videos submitted.

MU ALPHA THETA SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, Mu Alpha Theta and its Educational Foundation award multiple \$4,000 scholarships to members. The scholarships may be used within the first 18 months after the date the scholarship is awarded. Any graduating high school senior or two-year college student who is an active member of a current Mu Alpha Theta chapter is eligible. Each chapter may submit applications for up to two members. It is up to the chapter sponsor to determine what names to submit, if more than two students wish to apply.

Applications have a postmark deadline of March 1st. Due to issues with our website, please email the National Office at matheta@ou.edu if you need a scholarship application.

Three \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded: the Mary Rhein Memorial Scholarship, the Sallie Scudder Memorial Scholarship, and the Paul R. Goodey Scholarship. The latter scholarship is our newest scholarship named in honor of Dr. Paul R. Goodey, former Secretary-Treasurer of Mu Alpha Theta. The recipient of this scholarship will be a student who has participated in a mathematics related research project while a member of Mu Alpha Theta.

SUMMER MATH PROGRAM/RESEARCH GRANT

The Summer Math Program/Research Grants are available to Mu Alpha Theta members who have been a member since, at least, the semester prior to the application. To be considered for the grant, the member's chapter must have been active during the previous twelve months. Grants may be requested for up to \$2,000 per student. A member may apply more than once, but will be awarded no more than \$4,000 in total. Grant money may be used to pay tuition or fees, room and board, or travel expenses for a summer math program at, or sponsored by, an accredited school or university. Money will also be granted to reimburse expenses for doing research in mathematics or applied mathematics.

MU ALPHA THETA AWARDS

ANDREE AWARD *for members*

The Andree Award, named in honor of Mu Alpha Theta founders Richard and Josephine Andree, is awarded to a student interested in becoming a mathematics teacher. Two awards are presented annually, one to a high school senior member and one to a former or current member now in college. Each Andree Award winner receives a \$2,500 cash prize. The winner may choose to receive the \$2,500 as scholarship money to the college he or she is attending, rather than as a cash prize. **Applications are due March 1st.**

KALIN AWARD *for members*

The Kalin Award was created by a grant from Dr. Robert Kalin of Florida State University, a former President of Mu Alpha Theta. The Mu Alpha Theta Educational Foundation continues to support the Kalin Award. This award recognizes graduating high school seniors who have excelled in mathematics and performed notable service to Mu Alpha Theta communities. Interviews of the top candidates will be conducted at the July meeting of the Governing Council. Members present at the National Convention will be interviewed in person. Members who are not attending the National Convention will be interviewed electronically. The winner of the award receives a \$4,000 prize and a distinguished plaque. The winner may choose to receive the \$4,000 as scholarship money to the college he or she will be attending, rather than as a cash prize. **Applications are due March 1st.**

RUBIN AWARD *for chapters*

The Rubin Award was named in honor of Diane Rubin who worked tirelessly at the National Office of Mu Alpha Theta for twenty years, before her retirement in December 2003. The award is presented to the Mu Alpha Theta chapter which has a history of outstanding mathematics service to its community or its school for at least two years. This service must promote interest in mathematics and benefit a group other than its own chapter. A prize of \$2,500 and a plaque will be presented to the winning chapter. The award will be presented at the National Convention, but a representative of the chapter need not be present to win. No school may receive the award more than once in a five year period. **Applications are due March 1st.**

*Did you
know?*

5044 students
competed in
Round 1 of
RCML!