

Notices

of the American Mathematical Society

EDITOR: Hugo Rossi

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

Robert F. Fossum, Susan Friedlander (*Forum Editor*),
Steven Krantz, Susan Landau, Andy Magid,
Mary Beth Ruskai

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Keith Devlin

PRODUCTION EDITOR: Sandra Frost

SENIOR WRITER: Allyn Jackson

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Muriel Toupin

PRODUCTION:

Ronald Whitney (*Production Manager*), Luann Cole,
Lori Nero, Donna Salter, Deborah Smith, Peter Sykes,
Patricia Tarro, Maxine Wolfson

ADVERTISING SALES: Anne Newcomb

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION: Subscription prices for Volume 42(1995) are \$255 list; \$204 institutional member; \$153 Individual member. (The subscription price for members is included in the annual dues.) A late charge of 10% of the subscription price will be imposed upon orders received from nonmembers after January 1 of the subscription year. Add for postage: Surface delivery outside the United States and India—\$15; in India—\$34; expedited delivery to destinations in North America—\$32; elsewhere—\$67. Subscriptions and orders for AMS publications should be addressed to the American Mathematical Society, P.O. Box 5904, Boston, MA 02206-5904. All orders must be prepaid.

ADVERTISING: *Notices* publishes situations wanted and classified advertising, and display advertising for publishers and academic or scientific organizations.

SUBMISSIONS: The *Notices* Editorial Board encourages submission of articles on mathematics, the profession, and mathematics education, as well as shorter articles or reviews, and Letters to the Editor. Written material can be sent directly to the editors or to the Providence office.

NOTICES ON e-MATH: Most of this publication is now available electronically through e-MATH on the World Wide Web. e-MATH is the Society's resource for delivering electronic products and services to mathematicians. To access the *Notices* on e-MATH, use the URL:


<http://e-math.ams.org/>
(or <http://www.ams.org/>)

(For those with VT100-type terminals or for those without WWW browsing software, connect to e-MATH via Telnet (telnet e-math.ams.org; login and password e-math) and use the Lynx option from the main menu.)

[*Notices of the American Mathematical Society* is published monthly by the American Mathematical Society at 201 Charles Street, Providence, RI 02904-2213. Second class postage paid at Providence, RI and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address change notices to *Notices of the American Mathematical Society*, P.O. Box 6248, Providence, RI 02940-6248.] Publication here of the Society's street address, and the other information in brackets above, is a technical requirement of the U.S. Postal Service. All correspondence should be mailed to the Post Office box, not the street address. Tel: 401-455-4000. e-mail: ams@math.ams.org.

© Copyright 1995 by the
American Mathematical Society.
All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America.
The paper used in this journal is acid-free and
falls within the guidelines established
to ensure permanence and durability.

 Printed on recycled paper.

ABOUT THE COVER

For centuries humans have tried to make their way through turbulence, both empirically and theoretically. In both aspects, new tools and ideas are providing major breakthroughs.

From the Editor

In the fall 1994 election fewer than 10 percent of the members returned ballots, which meant that the amendment to the Bylaws did not pass, since, according to the Bylaws, amendments can pass only when at least 10 percent of the members vote and two-thirds of those voting approve.

The point here is not the merits of the amendment but rather the lack of participation of the members in the governance of the Society. This lack of interest is exhibited elsewhere.

There are about 300 appointments to committees made by the president each year acting on recommendations made by a committee on committees. Each year I place full-page advertisements in the *Notices* asking for recommendations to be forwarded to the Committee on Committees. Chairs of existing committees and members of the Council are polled for suggestions to be forwarded to the Committee on Committees. The response to these requests is horrible. There were at most a handful of responses to these calls for suggestions.

There were fewer than five suggestions for nominations for elections to the Council. There were NO suggestions from the general membership for nominations for election to the Nominating Committee and the Editorial Boards Committee.

A request from department chairs for recommendations did elicit about thirty responses. I can assure those chairs that all of their recommendations were considered, one by one. (The Committee on Committees meeting lasted for well over five hours. This face-to-face meeting is only a portion of the work involved in this activity.)

The Society belongs to the membership, and the membership should be involved in its governance. It is impossible for the president and her Committee on Committees to know all members of the Society and especially to know which members are willing to serve the Society in various capacities. Thus it is important that the members communicate with the leadership about all aspects of the Society business. This includes desires and wishes about meetings and conferences, publications, science policy, education policy, and issues of the profession.

There are three committees that make recommendations to the president and the Council for election to various leadership and governance positions in the Society. These are: the Nominating Committee, which recommends nominees for the contested elections to the Council; the Editorial Boards Committee, which recommends editors to the Council for election to the editorial boards and associate editors for appointment to these boards; and the Committee on Committees, which recommends individuals to the president for appointment to the many committees of the Society. The Nominating Committee and Editorial Boards Committee members are elected, in contested election, by the membership. The candidates are nominated by the president. All suggestions received by the secretary are forwarded to her. The Committee on Committees is appointed by the president as one of her first official duties.

Among the many committees to which the president makes appointments are the five so-called policy committees: the Committee on Education, the Committee on Meetings and Conferences, the Committee on the Profession, the Committee on Publications, and the Committee on Science Policy. These committees are responsible for recommending to the Council of the Society policy in their areas of responsibility. The president appoints members to these committees upon recommendation by the Committee on Committees. In order that these policy committees represent the opinions of the membership, it is vital that the Committee on Committees has a diverse and rich pool of members from which it can choose individuals to recommend to the president.

Communications from the members are always welcome by the officers and other members who volunteer their time to insure that the Society is fulfilling its mission. The *Notices* regularly publishes electronic mail addresses for the various officers and committees. We still read regular mail. We still answer the phone.

So please vote in the next election. Send in your suggestions for appointments and nominations. Tell your committees what is right and what is wrong.

Robert M. Fossum