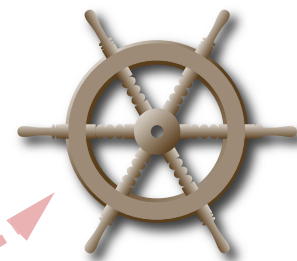


Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



NSMTA - Promoting mathematics education & PD for over 50 years

by Joe MacDonald, President, Nova Scotia Mathematics Teachers Association

The Nova Scotia Mathematics Teachers Association (NSMTA) was established in 1962 as a Professional Association of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU). Since then the Association has been active in promoting mathematics education and professional development throughout the province.

The NSMTA has the following goals stated in its constitution:

- To improve practice in mathematics by increasing members' knowledge and understanding;
- To act as a clearing house for ideas and a source of trends and new development;
- To advocate for the particular special interest represented by the association, within bounds consistent with overall NSTU on matters affecting mathematics;
- To furnish recommendations and advice to the provincial executive and other committees of the NSTU on matters affecting mathematics.

The NSMTA executive is a dedicated group of mathematics educators from across the province who volunteer their time and energy. The Executive is made up of a president, vice-president, secretary, past president, treasurer, and members-at large representing Nova Scotia's school districts. Meetings are held throughout the year to examine current issues in mathematics and to plan for the NSTU October Provincial Conference.



Above are some of the volunteer MTA teachers and MTA executive members from Conference 2013 (left to right): Maureen MacInnis, Patti Kennedy (member-at-large Chignecto), Robin Harris, Anne Pentecost (Webmaster), Elinor Cameron (Registrar), Darlene MacKeen Hudson, Keith Partridge (member-at-large, CSAP), Anthony Grover, Marlene Urquhart (past president), David MacFarlane (president), Joe MacDonald (vice-president), Jocelyn Procopio (secretary), Leslie Cunningham (member-at-large, Tri-county), and NSTU president Shelley Morse.

Mathematics Matters is a regular publication of the NSMTA. The newsletter is distributed to all active members as a means of keeping them informed of current issues in mathematics education. Members are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter.

The NSMTA strives to give back to its membership by making funding available for special projects developed by classroom teachers. Information on funding can be obtained by contacting any member of the executive.

The Nova Scotia Mathematics Teachers Association is an affiliate of the National Council Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the world's largest mathematics education organization. One executive member serves as a liaison with NCTM and keeps members informed of NCTM developments through the NSMTA newsletter and website. The NSMTA provides financial assistance for its members to attend the Annual NCTM Conference and Exposition held at various locations in the United States.

The Annual NSMTA Conference is held every October on NSTU Provincial Conference Day. The 2015 Conference at C.P. Allen High School in Bedford, N.S. was an overwhelming success with close to 900 attendees participating in over 80 workshops and presentations. The NSMTA makes every effort to respond to the needs of its members in providing meaningful professional development that aligns with current curriculum and best practices. The implementation of new Mathematics curriculum at all grade levels has been the focus of recent conferences. The vast majority of workshop presenters are classroom teachers who volunteer their time and expertise to provide quality learning experiences for all in attendance. Planning is already under way for the 2016 Conference which will again be held in Bedford.

To learn more about the Nova Scotia Mathematics Teachers Association visit <http://mta.nstu.ca/> or follow the MTA on Twitter @MTA_NS.



Some 800 teachers attended more than 100 workshops and sessions offered by the MTA during its annual conference held on October 2008 at Central Kings Rural High School in Cambridge. Paula Steffen Moeller, from Texas Instruments, delivered the opening address, "Changing Opportunities, Changing Lives, By Moving Math Forward," Thursday evening. Above, Steffen Moeller discusses some of the technology used in an innovative model for math improvement, which her company developed in partnership with US school districts, with Elinor Cameron, on-site chair of the MTA conference.

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