

# Chi Alpha Mu Newsletter

❖ Fall 2010 ❖

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## News from the President

Fall brings a new school year with new students and new opportunities for Chi Alpha Mu math clubs. Thank you for donating your time to your math students. Keeping students interested and engaged in mathematics is especially important during the critical Middle School years. In this newsletter you will find many opportunities for your students. If you have not thought about offering mathematics competition to them, I find these provide great stimulation and keep students enjoying mathematics. Besides the opportunities that the Rocket City Math League, MATHCOUNTS, and the AMC8 provide, many states offer local, regional, or state competitions for your students. In the state of Washington, we annually host **Math is Cool**, a competition for 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, <http://www.academicsarecool.com/>, at sites around the state. The website has past tests with answers available. There is also the **Blaine Washington Math Championships** for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Information and archived tests can be found at: [http://www.blaine.wednet.edu/mathchamps/Middle\\_School/Home.html](http://www.blaine.wednet.edu/mathchamps/Middle_School/Home.html). Also for this age group is The Washington State Math Council offers the **Middle School Math Olympiad**. See <http://wsmc.net/olympiad/>.

Many Mu Alpha Theta High School and Two-Year College chapters offer middle school competitions, Mighty Mu contests, and Math Fun Days for schools in their area. If you want to find a local chapter near you, check out the "Find a Chapter" link on the Mu website at [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org). If no local competitions exist in your area, how about getting together with the local high school or other Middle Schools in your area and planning an event. The National Office can often provide some prizes for your events.

Have a great school year. Let us know the kinds of activities your members enjoy so we can share them with other clubs.

Tom Tosch

## National Office News from Kay Weiss

The National Office is usually staffed from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm central time, Monday through Friday. The office will be closed on most major National holidays and during the winter break from December 22 – January 3. We do not take a spring break, since this is usually our busiest time of the year. If you have orders needed before January 4, please make sure to get them to the office before December 22, so we can mail them before we close for the holidays.

While Chi Alpha Mu was incorporated in 1967, it ceased to be active by 2001. In 2008, Mu Alpha Theta agreed to try to rejuvenate the organization. We feel strongly that unless we keep students interested in math during the middle school years, we will lose them by the time they reach high school. You, as a Chi Alpha Mu sponsor, play an important role in keeping math interesting and fun! Below in this newsletter is information that may help. But, we are looking for new ideas and fun activities to share. Please see our offer for free Key Curriculum materials to those providing ideas for our Spring Newsletter. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

One way to stimulate math students at the all levels is with mathematical competitions. Many Chi clubs already know about the AMC8. If not, you can download information about the test from <http://amc.maa.org/e-exams/e4-amc08/amc8.shtml>. This year the 25 question, 40 min. multiple choice examination will be held on Tuesday, November 16. Registration deadlines are fast approaching, so if you are interested please get your application in now.

Another deadline quickly approaching is for the American Math Challenge on October 26 – 27, 2010 from 8 am – 11 pm. You can register and find out more information at <http://www.americanmathchallenge.com/>.

Be sure to look at the MATHCOUNTS website for their Problem of the Week, free problem sets and group math activities with their Club in a Box resource kit. All of their activities are free for the asking. How about starting a MATHCOUNTS team? See <https://mathcounts.org/SSLPage.aspx?pid=1828> for more information. The deadline for the 2011 competition is December 10. Chapter competitions start in February.

Many Mu Alpha Theta chapters run local or regional math competitions for both middle school and elementary school students. Contact your local high school's chapter of Mu Alpha Theta to find out how to coordinate with their members. Many Mu members will also help coach your mathletes or provide interesting math related activities for your students interested in math.

Last, but not least, remember that we have Chi Alpha Mu banners, Achievement Certificates to recognize your members and wristlets. See pictures of our merchandise online at <http://www.chialphamu.org/Merchandise>. We hope to have a newly designed t-shirt available soon.

### **YOUR GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Each year the Governing Council of Chi Alpha Mu meets during the National Mu Alpha Theta Convention and again in January or February. The Governing Council is the Board of Directors of Mu Alpha Theta, our Educational Foundation, and Chi Alpha Mu, the National Junior Mathematics Clubs. It is composed of a President, Past-President or President-Elect, a Secretary-Treasurer, four Regional Governors, four Representatives from the national mathematics organizations NCTM, MAA, SIAM, and AMATYC, and the Executive Director of our organization, Kay Weiss. Members of the Governing Council are responsible for all financial and organizational decisions for our non-profit organizations.

Congratulations to President-Elect of the Governing Council, Carol Botzner, from Lakota West High School in West Chester, OH and to the newly elected Governors of Regions 3 & 4, Betty Hood, from Brentwood High School in Brentwood, TN, and Sam Koski, from Miami Springs Senior High School in Miami Springs, FL. Thomas Kilkelly will be joining the Governing Council as well, replacing Carol Botzner as the representative from NCTM.

Remember to get permission from the National Office before using Chi Alpha Mu's name on your Facebook page or on other social networking sites. A teacher or other approved adult must have administrative oversight of any site using our name.

## **Raytheon's Math MovesU**

<http://www.mathmovesu.com/>

Raytheon's MathMovesU is an innovative program designed to engage middle school students with math when their interest in the subject typically declines. Algebra, geometry, decimals, fractions & word problems combine with topics kids are passionate about; sports, music & fashion. MMU delivers math problems via games, polls and fun facts. MathMovesU.com can be used to supplement your classroom curriculum.

For more information and an overview of the program, see:

[http://www.raytheon.com/responsibility/stem/mm\\_u/index.html](http://www.raytheon.com/responsibility/stem/mm_u/index.html)

Visit [Math Moves University](http://www.mathmovesu.com/)

(<http://www.mathmovesu.com/MathPractice.aspx>)

to find worksheets for classroom use. You can also encourage your students to log on for extra-credit and help.

## **Math Moves U Scholarships**

Do you have a student interested in getting a \$1000 scholarship to summer camp? 6th, 7th and 8th graders are challenged to show how their favorite hobby, sport, subject or activity would not exist without MATH. Submissions can be multimedia (video, audio, web, etc.) or paper. Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2011. See more details at

<http://www.mathmovesu.com/Scholarships.aspx>

At the same URL, you can **Nominate a Math Hero!** Math teachers and volunteers who work with students are eligible to receive a \$2,500 Math Hero award, with a \$2,500 matching grant awarded to their school or an approved math-related nonprofit organization of their choice.

## **Free Key Curriculum Tinkerplots Program and Workbooks will be awarded as prizes to Chi Alpha Mu Chapters!**

Key Curriculum Press has donated five copies of their TinkerPlots Program, copies of "Digging into Data with TinkerPlots" and copies of their "Survey Toolkit Workbook". Each winning chapter of Chi Alpha Mu will receive a Single User copy of the program and four or five copies of each of the two workbooks.

**Want to win one? Email us with information about what your chapter has been doing during your meetings? Have a fun idea or activity to share with other chapters? We want to hear from you!! Send a picture or two that we may use in our next Newsletter. The value of each prize package is about \$450. Just email your entry to Kay Weiss at [matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu)! 5 winners and 5 runners up to be announced by December 15.**

MAA has donated copies of the DVD "Hard Problems" to Chi Alpha Mu. The DVD follows the American team preparing for and competing in the 2006 International Math Olympiad contest. If you would like a copy for your chapter to own, please email [matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu) and request your FREE copy today.

#### **Pi Day Idea:**

We celebrate "Pi Day" for a week by making hot dessert pies during lunch with a "Hot & Toasty Sandwich maker". Buttered slices of bread are filled with chocolate, marshmallow, or fruit fillings, toasted then dusted with powdered or cinnamon sugar. Triangle shape allows for other math symbolism, so you could do this on other dates. Pies sold for \$.50 each and we had a net profit of about \$100 a day...the smell alone tempts many repeat customers!

**From Cheryl Star, Gilmer High School, Ellijay, GA**

#### **The Rocket City Math League**

The RCML is a free, year-long, international math contest open to all middle, high school, and two-year college students **enrolled in Pre-Algebra** through Calculus and above math courses. It is administered by the students at **Grissom High School** in Huntsville, AL supported by a grant from Mu Alpha Theta. Participants are placed into one of five divisions based on the level of math courses in which they are enrolled. Each division will be given three, 12-question tests lasting 45 minutes. A two-level, Inter-School team Test is also available.

Tests are sent to registered schools via email before each round, and scores are entered into an online database. Trophies are mailed to the top ranked students and schools at the end of the year.

Mu Alpha Theta also provides other prizes, as well, including copies of Mathematica, the DVD "Hard Problems", and TI Graphing Calculators. Testing dates for the 2010-2011 competition are:

- **Inter-School Test: November 29**  
– **December 10, 2010**
- **Round One: January 17 – 28, 2011**
- **Round Two: February 14 – 25, 2011**
- **Round Three: March 14 – 25, 2011**

Register at [www.rocketcitymath.org](http://www.rocketcitymath.org).

For more info, visit [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org) > Contests > Rocket City.

**A GREAT IDEA TO TRY** – Run a Math Expo for your school. Set up stations with math activities manned by your members, other teachers or parent volunteers. Station Ideas:

Pascal's Triangle, Fibonacci Sequence, Golden Ratio, 3 Doors, 3 Houses, Tangrams, Quilt Patterns, Attribute Blocks, Pi, Pi – Pick Up Sticks, Paper Folding, Platonic Solids, State Machine, Bouncing Ball – CBR, Walk the Curve – CBR, Height/Wing Span, Pi Eating Contest, Probability, Normal Distribution, Networks, Bin Packing, Math Quiz Bowl, Math in Physics, Math in Art, Applied Math – Pipe Bending, Math at the Amusement Park, Accident Reconstruction, Have You Ever Wondered?, Dominos, Brain Teasers/Puzzles, Dart Board - Make the Number, Twister/X-Y Plane, Conic Sections, Geodesic Dome, Mobius Strip, Fair Division, Fractals/ Snowflake Curve/Serpinski's Triangle

**From Melissa Mauchenheimer, Washington High School, Washington, MO (email the National Office for further information.)**