

remember the one that Dick Kopan chaired in Red Deer when we had to dicker with Mr. Passuto of the Capri Centre to get a reasonable cost for use of the facilities.

- I enjoyed being a part of the conference programs in presenting various workshops over the years, including topics on calculators, problem solving and experiential learning.
- I remember having a get-together at Brian's house sometime around Christmas. Brian Chapman, from Lacombe Junior High, was our treasurer.
- I also remember get-togethers of executive members and friends at various conferences. Fellowship in hospitality rooms and dancing at Esmeralda's at the Lethbridge Lodge come to mind.

## Ron Cammaert

1980-81 *Director*

1981-82 *Monograph Editor*

1982-83 *Vice President*

1983-85 *President and NCTM Representative*

1985-86 *Past President and NCTM Representative*

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If you are going  
to lead people,  
you have to  
know where  
they are going.

Camilleon Hood  
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I RECALL THE FIRST MEETING OF the executive I attended. During fall 1980, we gathered early Saturday morning in the conference room of Lacombe High School. At that time, all executive meetings were held in Lacombe because it was centrally located, and Treasurer Don Hinde taught at the school, so we were able to use the conference room.

Although I had met some executive members before, I was uncertain as to what to expect. Looking around the room, I realized what a real privilege it was to be associated with a group consisting of many leaders in mathematics education in Alberta. Throughout my years on the executive, my first impressions were reinforced over and over. I never failed to be impressed with the personal dedication of the executive members to improving mathematics education and learning in the

province. The executive members believed deeply in their own professional development as educators and worked to provide their colleagues with opportunities to learn about the latest trends in mathematics education.

One should not get the impression that all executive gatherings were sombre affairs. People were dedicated and the work of the Council was effectively achieved, but there was also a camaraderie among the executive members. To protect our reputation as straightlaced mathematics teachers, we often explained that we were from the Social Studies Council. This always seemed to justify any range of behavior. At times, it seemed that an interest and ability in dancing was a prerequisite for mathematics teachers.

Because the executive represents mathematics teachers from across

the province, executive members often had to travel long distances from their homes to attend executive meetings. The informal discussions in the car on the long drive to and from meetings were often as productive as the formal meetings for coming up with new ideas. There were several interesting incidents involving travel and Gary Hill. There is a now-famous driving school in Edmonton named for Gary's herculean efforts at van driving. There were also a number of meetings or conferences which, despite the best of planning, were disrupted by unpredictable Alberta weather. One year, Gary and I had the brainchild that by chartering a plane, we could reduce travel and accommodation expenses for executive meetings. The Saturday we tried this was one of those days that a famous sudden Alberta blizzard decided to pay a visit to the Red Deer area. The flight was fine, and we were congratulating ourselves on avoiding difficult driving conditions, until we tried to land at Lacombe. After almost sliding off the runway, the pilot informed us that he was not going to stay in Lacombe but would pick us up at the Red Deer airport. As a result, Dick Kopan had to drive us what seemed like all the way back to Calgary. Needless to say, this form of cutting expenses was not tried again. Conference calls, although effective, seem to have taken some of the adventure out of getting to executive meetings.

Executive members made my two years as president the easiest two years I spent in MCATA. Being president with the capable and dedicated group I was privileged to work with meant that, once ideas were generated and it was figured out who was going to do what, one just got out of the way. For instance, to bolster membership in MCATA,

executive members came up with ideas about rotating conference locations, improving the quality of publications and using an improved membership database for contacting members. The hardest part of any conference was locating the right person to be conference chair. Fortunately, there never was a lack of excellent people to step up to the challenge. I remain very grateful for all the support and assistance I received during my term as president.

I always believed that the conferences, mini-conferences and publications produced by MCATA were of extremely high quality. This judgment was reinforced when I represented MCATA at an NCTM conference. The quality of sessions and the speakers MCATA offers its members each year are every bit as good as those at this major international convention. MCATA publications have achieved a justifiable reputation across Canada and the United States.

Alberta has been and continues to be on the forefront of mathematics education in North America. We in Alberta have been on the cutting edge of implementing teaching methods to help students better understand mathematics, using technology in the learning of mathematics, finding ways to better access student growth and developing curriculum to prepare students for an everchanging world. The levels of achievement Albertan students have been able to demonstrate on national and international tests attest to how well Alberta's mathematics teachers have been able to adjust to the changing conditions in mathematics education. I proudly believe that MCATA has contributed and will continue to contribute to this achievement.

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 The path to  
 success is paved  
 with good  
 intentions that  
 were carried out.

Bob Edward

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