



## Post-Conference Math SPIN Newsletter

National Association for Developmental Education

May 1998

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Dear Math SPIN Members:

I would like to write a short newsletter to inform you of some things that took place at the Atlanta SPIN meeting and to tell you about ideas we have for this next year's newsletters.

The Math SPIN group had a short business meeting at the NADE Conference in Atlanta in March. It was followed by a presentation by several members, who discussed programs that work at their college.

### Goals for 1997-1998

1. **To publish at least two newsletters. We feel that there exists a vital need to improve communication among membership.**

Three newsletters were mailed out this past year and I plan on doing a minimum of two this next year. Much of the discussion was about ways to improve membership participation in the writing of the newsletter. The members present agreed that it should be a joint effort. Several suggestions were made. It was decided to start a discussion page. Several members gave me questions that they would like asked in the newsletter and hopefully members will respond and their answers and ideas will be printed in the Fall letter.

2. **To continue to improve our Web Page.**

Shawna Mahan has done an excellent job this past year setting up the web page and getting our newsletter using e-mail. I really have appreciated her help this past year! We will continue to work on our web page and to coordinate members e-mail addresses in order to improve communication.

### NEW ADDRESS

<http://owl.ccd.ccooes.edu/asc/math/spin/nademath.htm>

### Officers for 1997-1998

Chair - Joanne Methven

Chair-elect - Roberta Lacefield

Web Page - Shawna Mahan

I was very pleased when Roberta VOLUNTEERED to serve as Chair-elect. Not only did she volunteer, but also it was a unanimous election! Thank you Roberta!

Roberta and I will work together this next year and she will assume the responsibility of the Math SPIN Chair in February of 1999 at the Detroit Conference.

The chair's responsibilities are mainly to organize and run the Math SPIN meeting at the annual NADE Conference, to keep track of membership, to welcome new members throughout the year and to oversee the publication of Newsletters. The chair serves a three-year term.

Carol Atnip spoke to us about the Math Developmental Education Conference in June in Kansas City. She is in charge of this conference. It is different from NADE in that only Mathematics will be addressed. Several members showed interest in attending this conference. It was decided to give the money left in our last year's budget (\$409) to members who are interested in attending. Members who participate will be sent a form to request money from the NADE office. Any member who attends MUST write an article for the newsletter!

The following people spoke about programs that work at their schools:

Ruth Feigenbaum discussed the Algebra classes for Learning Disabled students that she teaches.

Nelda Manter showed us an easy way to solve word problems.

Joanne Methven spoke about the Integrated Semester, which is a program that helps students with three or more developmental courses.

**Our next Newsletter will be in the Fall.**

Below are some questions that were asked by the membership to be discussed in the Fall Newsletter.

1. Do you think we should allow students to use graphing calculators in elementary algebra?
2. Where does your state stand when it comes to state mandated assessment?
3. Is there a need for a Ph.D. Program in Developmental Education?
4. How do you handle students who continue to talk while you are lecturing even though you have spoken to them numerous times?
5. How do you balance collaborative projects with the non-traditional methods and still cover all the material the students need to progress to the next course?
6. What are you doing to reform your Algebra from the traditional methods?
7. What are some really good pre-algebra books for 1,2, or 3 credit courses?

**Call for Overviews.**

I am requesting that each SPIN member send me a brief overview of your developmental Math Program including:

- The number of courses
- The type of instruction used
- The class size
- Placement test
- Skills labs
- Tutoring available
- Technology used
- Exit criteria

I will include several in the next newsletter. This will be a good way to find out what is being done in Developmental Math throughout the country!

**Program for the Next SPIN Meeting in Detroit**

I suggest that each member brings a gimmick or idea used in your Math classes that makes math easier to learn!

In order to have a good and worthwhile newsletter, the membership must help me write it! Please e-mail or write me any discussion you have from the questions asked and also send me your overview. Also send me any questions or topics that you would like discussed. I hope you all have a great summer and you will hear from me again in the Fall.

Sincerely yours,



Joanne Methven  
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