

2002 Annual Report to the Council
from the
Committee on the Profession

The Committee on the Profession held its annual meeting in September at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel in Chicago. Highlights of that meeting are provided below. The Council agenda contains four items forwarded to Council for action.

Committee on the Profession Highlights
September 21, 2002
Chicago O'Hare Hilton

The Committee on the Profession (CoProf) discussed a proposal for a new AMS Book Prize which was developed by a subcommittee formed following the CoProf meeting in September of 2001. The proposal was well received by the Committee, and a recommendation to establish the prize was approved by email following the meeting. The Book Prize will recognize a single, relatively recent, outstanding research book that makes a seminal contribution to the research literature, reflects the highest standards of research exposition, and promises to have a deep and a long-term impact in its area. Books published within the six calendar years prior to the year in which nominations are due would be eligible. The prize would be awarded every three years and the amount would be \$5,000.

A second subcommittee presented a proposal to establish an AMS award that recognizes outstanding achievement by a mathematics department. Substantial progress was made in refining the subcommittee's proposal, but CoProf's final decision was to hold this proposal over for further consideration at their meeting in September, 2003.

CoProf endorsed a recommendation by Secretary Daverman and Associate Executive Director Maxwell that the AMS implement the option of electronic voting for the 2003 elections. The AMS expects to hire an electronic balloting firm to handle the process via the internet. Other societies, such as the American Physical Society, have recently implemented electronic balloting with a significant increase in member voting rates and a reduction in costs.

CoProf approved recommending to Council changes in the Bylaws governing life membership. The recommendation to Council offers two options for rewordings of the relevant section of the Bylaws. One gives Council the authority to determine eligibility and dues levels for this category of membership, subject to the usual approval of the dues by the Board of Trustees. The other proposal includes language that describes factors the Council must consider in establishing the dues amounts. Both of the options will be forwarded for Council consideration at its January 2003 meeting.

The Committee reviewed the draft document outlining the focused planning process for membership, now scheduled to take place during 2003. Members of the Committee viewed the document quite favorably, and they suggested several new issues for exploration during the planning effort. The Chair of CoProf will appoint a subcommittee to react to specific topics, questions and issues that arise as the project progresses over the coming year. In addition, CoProf selected membership as the area for annual review during the coming year.

The Committee reviewed two areas of Society activity that fall within its charge: human rights and professional ethics. Separate subcommittees formed to review these areas each presented reports to CoProf. No significant problems were reported for either area of activity.

CoProf will hold its next meeting on September 13, 2003 at the O'Hare Hilton.

*Prepared by Jim Maxwell
October 28, 2002*