Recession Special
Given the current economic times, the SSMA Program Planning Committee and the Board of Directors worked to keep convention costs to a minimum. The registration form is available on the SSMA website (http://www.ssma.org/) for convenient online registration.

Teacher Saturday
Sessions that will be of special interest to K-12 teachers have been scheduled on Saturday, October 24. With a special one-day fee of $25, we hope to meet many of the teachers within driving distance of Reno. We hope all of our members will take advantage of this unique opportunity to network with area teachers and introduce them to our organization.

Local Activities
The planning committee has arranged several optional activities highlighting the local attractions. You will need to register and pay for these separately from your conference registration. Look for email announcements and check the SSMA website for costs and registration procedures for these events.

- Virginia City History Tour: After a full day of sessions on Friday, you can board a chartered bus for dinner and an evening out in Virginia City. We have arranged to have several local experts accompany us on the trip to share information on the unique history of this “Old West” town. For a little background information, you may wish to visit this site: http://www.visitvirginiacitynv.com/
• **Experience Lake Tahoe:** Don’t miss the opportunity to visit beautiful Lake Tahoe. Register for a lovely afternoon and evening excursion to Lake Tahoe. The charter bus will leave the Grand Sierra shortly after the conclusion of the convention sessions on Saturday afternoon. Plan to stay an extra day to take advantage of this opportunity.

• **Texas Hold ‘em Poker Tournament:** Test your poker skills against those of other SSMA members. Half of the prize pool from this private SSMA event will go to the SSMA endowment fund. The other half will be distributed among the tournament winners. Tournament date, time, and entry fee to be announced.

**Keynote Speakers**

**The Nevada Test Site**
A unique national resource, the Nevada Test Site is a massive outdoor laboratory and national experimental center that cannot be duplicated. Larger than the state of Rhode Island, approximately 1,375 square miles, the Nevada Test Site is one of the largest restricted access areas in the United States. The remote site is surrounded by thousands of additional acres of land withdrawn from the public domain for use as a protected wildlife range and for a military gunnery range, creating an unpopulated land area comprising some 5,470 square miles. Charles Costa will speak on a brief history of the Nevada Test Site and will highlight the important role a museum plays in the educational community and how a museum can be a great resource for teachers.

**It Pays to Understand the Slot Machine Math**
Friday’s Keynote address will feature Ken Moberly, a consultant in the Gaming Industry. Ken was the Director of Professional Services at International Game Technology and held the positions of General Manager and Vice-President of Slot Operations for the Peppermill Hotel Casino in Reno, as well as the Corporate Slot Director for five Nevada gaming properties owned by Peppermill, Incorporated. Ken also served as a Vice-President for Mills-Jennings Slot Manufacturing. Ken is currently an industry consultant and guest speaker on casino slot department management and operations. Ken has been a guest speaker and an instructor in the Gaming Management Program at the University of Nevada, Reno for over twenty years. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Business from U.N.R.

**MSP Poster Session**
If you are involved in a Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) grant, we invite you to submit a poster presentation of your project. The poster session will provide opportunities to share information and ideas about planning, implementing, and evaluating MSP projects.

Please email your MSP poster information to Ken Miller at kmiller@msubillings.edu by August 1, 2009 for inclusion in the Program Booklet. Please include your poster title and presenter information (Name(s), Institution, and Email Address).
Bring the Family
The Grand Sierra is a family resort with something for everyone, including:

- Camp ground
- Spa and Health Club with a fully equipped fitness centre, whirlpool, sauna, steam room, massage, and swimming pool
- Children's adventure centre
- Video Game Parlor, simulator rides, and laser tag
- Movie Theater
- An aquatic golf driving range staffed with professional instructors
- An indoor golf simulator
- An 80,000 square feet casino,
- A 50-lane championship bowling facility
- A Wedding Chapel

With nine restaurants under one roof, the Grand Sierra Resort offers superb dining to fit every taste. Whether you're looking for the elegant tableside service of a truly gourmet steak house, seafood or outstanding Italian food, you'll find just what you're looking for at the Grand Sierra Resort. To see the many amenities offered at the Grand Sierra, visit the resort's website: http://www.grandsierraresort.com/

Check the SSMA website (ssma.org) throughout the summer for conference registration information, convention updates, and registration information for special activities and events.

SSMA Journal
All manuscript submissions and reviews for School Science and Mathematics are now online through the journal website at http://ssmj.tamu.edu/. Hard copy submissions are no longer accepted. Please visit the web site for guidelines and to submit manuscripts. See the October 2008 issue of the journal for information about calls for manuscripts, including a new section Research in the Classroom.

If you would like to be a Reviewer, please go the Journal website at http://ssmj.tamu.edu/ and complete an application form. Reviewers prepare comments, reviews, and recommendations for 1-2 manuscripts a year in their area of specialization. Reviewers are needed in all areas of expertise, especially teacher preparation and professional development.

Quality manuscripts for the Journal are needed. Please see an issue of the Journal or visit the website for content areas and guidelines for submission. Members are especially encouraged to submit data-based research manuscripts on K-12 teaching or learning of science or mathematics, or their integration.

The SSM online submission and review site: http://ssmj.tamu.edu/.
Monograph Submission Guidelines
for School Science and Mathematics Association

The SSMA Monograph Guidelines are a three-stage approval process.

Stage One. **Query Letter**: First, a general interest inquiry is to be submitted to, and then reviewed by, the Publications Committee. This query letter should include the Monograph Editor, probable authors, rationale, background, and introduction and range of topics of the focus subject. A brief Editor's vita should accompany the letter.

Stage Two. **Proposal**: Upon approval of the letter of interest, a proposal is to be submitted electronically to the Chair of the Publications Committee. This proposal should include a proposed Table of Contents, the introductory (or editorial) chapter, outlines of each chapter (or article) with description and rationale for each, and a timeline of submission of the full monograph. This proposal must first be approved by the Publications Committee, and then forwarded to Board of Directors for Board approval.

Stage Three. **Draft of Full Monograph**: Upon Board approval of the proposal, a draft of the full monograph is to be submitted to the Chair of the Publications Committee. This full proposal is to be reviewed by the Publications Committee, then, if approved, by the Board of Directors for approval. The final draft of the full monograph is the responsibility of the monograph editor.

**Note**: Approval of any stage of the submission can be rescinded if the Monograph Editor misses the timelines approved by the Committee and the Board. The Chair of the Publications Committee will act as a liaison between the Board and the Monograph Editor and will be responsible for checking concurrence with the timeline.

Interested parties should submit a general interest inquiry to the chair of the Publications Committee:

Gil Naizer  
Associate Professor  
Department of Curriculum & Instruction  
College of Education and Human Services  
Texas A&M University - Commerce  
PO Box 3011  
Commerce, TX 75429-3011  
Phone: (903) 886-5538  
Fax: (903) 886-5581  
Email: gilbert_naizer@tamu-commerce.edu

This query letter should include the Monograph Editor, probable authors, rationale, background, and introduction and range of topics of the focus subject. A brief Editor's vita should accompany the letter.
Call for SSMA 2010 Awards

The SSMA Awards Committee invites the membership to submit nominees to be considered for the following awards:

- **GEORGE G. MALLINSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**
  o How nominee has shown substantial participation and leadership in SSMA activities
  o How nominee has exhibited scholarship, leadership, and/or teaching excellence in mathematics/science education

- **AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**
  o How person or group has fostered, promoted, and extended the integration of mathematics/science at the elementary, secondary, or university level
  o How person or group has impacted science/mathematics education

- **SSMA SCIENCE AND MATH GRANT AWARD**

- **OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER SCHOLAR AWARD**

The criteria for each award can be found online at [http://www.ssma.org/awards.php](http://www.ssma.org/awards.php). Any member of SSMA is free to nominate a person(s) satisfying the criteria noted above. An application may remain active for three years. Winner receives a complimentary conference registration. The recipients of these awards will be recognized at the SSMA Annual Convention.

Materials (for each award) are to be sent electronically to Alfinio Flores (alfinio@udel.edu) prior to March 5, 2010.

---

2008 SSMA Award for Excellence in Integrating Science and Mathematics
The Ohio Resource Center for Mathematics, Science, and Reading
Margaret Kasten, Executive Director

2007 SSMA Outstanding Early Career Scholar
Bharath Sriraman

2008 George G. Mallinson Distinguished Service Award
Dr. William R. Speer
SSMA Election Results

President-Elect

Don S. Balka, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Mathematics Department
Saint Mary’s College
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Directors-At-Large

Carla C. Johnson
Director, FUSION STEMM Center
Associate Professor of Science Education
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH 45221

Georgia A. Cobbs, Ph.D.
Professor, Curriculum & Instruction
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812-6346

Nominations for SSMA Board of Directors

To nominate a candidate to serve on the SSMA Board of Directors, a petition of twenty-five (25) signatures can be sent to Kees de Groot, Chair of the Nomination and Election Committee. Self-nominations are accepted as well. Please contact:

Cornelis (Kees) de Groot
University of Rhode Island
School of Education
709 Chafee
Kingston, RI 02881
degrootc@mail.uri.edu

Newsletter Editor

Gil Naizer
Associate Professor
Department of Curriculum & Instruction
College of Education and Human Services
Texas A&M University - Commerce
PO Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75429-3011

The SSMA Board of Directors approved the Publications Committee’s recommendation to appoint Gil as the newsletter editor. His term as editor begins following the 2009 Annual Convention.

Contact information for all SSMA Board Members and Committee Members can be found online at http://www.ssma.org/
Notes from SSMA's President

From Alan Zollman’s desk

This is the 108th year of the Association! So where are we going? I had the opportunity to be in Washington, DC several times in the past few months. Things are changing, mostly due to the Stimulus Bill and the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) is the economic stimulus package enacted by the 111th United States Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama in February, 2009.

In my meetings with Department of Education, Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Congressional staffers, it is clear that all have a potential effect for us as mathematics and science educators. The biggest impact will be in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. The new emphasis is sTEm. Every agency is stressing the increased importance of technology and engineering, with a de-emphasis of science and mathematics as the leading areas in STEM. I heard of not wanting to see silo-ing STEM, where each was a separate yet connected topic. I also heard of wanting to see technology and engineering educators leading grant proposals with mathematics and science added into the plan, not vice-versa. From everyone, I heard of the vital importance of STEM as the leading curricular issue of the new decade.

Two other issues arose in my discussions. The first issue was the dearth of mathematics and science consultants in state departments of education. Perhaps because of the pressure to raise test scores, the state curriculum personnel are either leaving or retiring. With state budget crunches, these vital people are not being replaced. Many states now do not have science or mathematics consultants. In those states that do, these personnel are assigned specifically to managing the DOE math-science partnership grants, with little time to assist schools or teachers.

The second issue was the new emphasis on getting national, not state, mathematics and science standards. The comment was, “Why should the mathematics a third grader needs to know in Vermont be different in Iowa?”

I wanted to close by asking is our glass half-full or half-empty, but I am afraid someone will ask me for my scoring rubric. Good luck out there!
Planning Ahead??

2010 Annual Convention
Ft. Myers, FL
Nov. 4-6, 2010

About Our Organization...

Membership in the School Science and Mathematics Association is open to any person who supports the objectives of the Association, who has paid membership dues, and completed an application.

Benefits of SSMA Membership include:
- Membership in an association encompassing both science and mathematics teaching and learning.
- 8 issues of the official journal School Science and Mathematics.
- 3 issues of the SSMA newsletter The Math-Science Connector.
- Opportunities to submit presentation proposals for the Annual Convention.
- Voting privileges for Association business and election of officers.
- Opportunities to serve on an SSMA Committee or Leadership Team.

Additional information about SSMA is available at our website (http://www.ssma.org) or by contacting Julie Thomas and Sandi Cooper (office@ssma.org).

To contribute news items for inclusion in the SSMA newsletter (The Math-Science Connector), please contact Valeria Amburgey (vamburgey@insightbb.com).