

Spectra

The Association for LGBT Mathematicians

For information see our website www.lgbtmath.org, where you can sign up for notifications and discussions.

Joint Math Meeting Events

- On-site reception, Thursday, January 5th, 6pm - 8pm, Pulse Loft, Marriott Marquis.
- Brainstorming session, Friday, January 6th, 3pm - 5pm, Hyatt Auburn Room.
- Off-site reception, Friday, January 6th, 5:30pm - 7:30pm, Blake's on the Park, 227 10th Street NE.

Some History and Background

In November, 1992, Colorado residents passed an amendment to their Constitution targeting three local anti-discrimination ordinances, nullifying them and making any further attempts unconstitutional. The 1995 Joint Math Meetings were scheduled for Denver. Two mathematicians wrote to the AMS and MAA boards in late 1992 requesting that the JMM be moved, citing the blatant anti-gay animus of the amendment (so blatant that in 1995 the US Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional). The boards met in a joint session at the 1993 JMM and passed a resolution recommending this move, arguing that the societies have a duty to protect participants from possible discrimination. Shortly afterwards, the Joint Meetings Committee moved the 1995 JMM to San Francisco. The Denver cancellation resulted in a lawsuit from the conference hotels, ultimately settled for \$35,000, split evenly between the AMS and MAA. Increased attendance at the San Francisco meeting likely covered most of this cost.

Despite short notice and communication difficulties (this was pre-Facebook!), an informal event at the San Francisco JMM held at a restaurant near the conference hotel drew nearly 100 people. A group of concerned mathematicians felt it would be very useful to have a more visible presence at future JMMs, and formed a steering committee, together with setting up an email group. Since some mathematicians might feel reluctant to enter a publicly identified event, we have sponsored both on-site and off-site receptions at later JMMs.

Beyond receptions, we organized an MAA panel at the 2015 JMM called "Out in Mathematics: LGBTQ mathematicians in the workplace". We also decided to formalize our organization as Spectra, with both mathematical and cultural connotations, and set up a Google group for communication. We invite you to participate in our brainstorming session on Friday at this meeting and contribute your ideas.